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OPINION METER

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Christmas

I N S I D E



Snail's Pace

Two years after, the snail's pace in the Maguindanao massacre proceedings is frustrating victims' relatives.

ASIA...Page 21



Tablet Season

'Tis the season of the tablet, when shoppers are expected to shell out for tablet computers this December.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY...

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Parole until Dec. 2012 for 4 groups under Kilili's bill

» Those eligible should not apply until USCIS gives further instruction
» Fitial concerned about 'economic, social harm'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

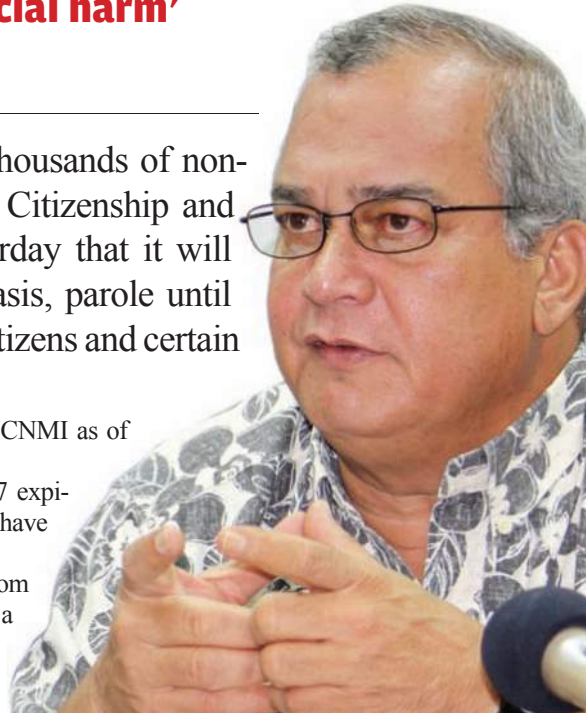
Thanksgiving got more meaningful for thousands of non-residents and their families when U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday that it will consider granting, on a case-by-case basis, parole until Dec. 31, 2012, to the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals in the CNMI.

This parole will allow individuals who are lawfully present in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011, to maintain legal status in the CNMI beyond that date.

USCIS' Thanksgiving announcement came just before the Nov. 27 expiration of umbrella permits held by these nonresidents who may not have another option under U.S. immigration law.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who received a call from USCIS director Alejandro Mayorkas around 5am yesterday, said that a parole status until December 2012 will give Congress more time to act

See KILILI on Page 4



DHS grants visa waiver for Russians visiting Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) see bright prospects related to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's granting of parole authority for Russian tourists visiting Guam for up to 45 days. They said this is an opportune time to promote the CNMI and Guam as a "Marianas destination."

Napolitano has long-granted a visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists visiting the CNMI.

Guam has long been asking for a visa waiver for these same two markets.

Fitial, according to press secretary Angel Demapan, has discussed with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo the viability of promoting the CNMI and Guam as a "Marianas" destination.

See DHS on Page 4



DRIVE SOBER THIS HOLIDAY

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, first row, third from left, joins police officers and other law enforcers for a group photo in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill Wednesday, after he signed a proclamation declaring December 2011 CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. The public is urged to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting against drunk and drugged driving especially this holiday season.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Fitial asks GOP lawmakers if they are seeking re-election. **PAGE 3**
Fund holds off filing case vs Sword and his company. **PAGE 5**

Local

Comprehensive analysis on revised LEAC model underway

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities

Corp. and the CNMI Public Utilities Commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting Group, will be meeting in a three-day

conference in Dallas next month to discuss the revision of the current levelized energy adjustment clause model.

Both parties agreed to the meeting during the commission's Nov. 19 business meeting.

CUC's fuel expenditures are subject to a semi-annual public review, after which PUC sets a prospective LEAC rate for the next six months, subject to adjustments to ensure that consumers are neither over- or under-billed for CUC's fuel expenses.

There is now a move to shift from the LEAC model to MFAC, or monthly fuel adjustment clause, where the fuel rate would be calculated on the first

day of every month, instead of every six months.

A bill is currently pending at the Legislature, Senate Bill 17-84, which proposes the same concept.

CPUC chair Viola Alepuyo, who earlier opposed the bill, has asked CUC officials for their opinion about this proposal and their experiences with the LEAC method.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told the commissioner that CUC has no problems with LEAC. However, due to the complicated process involved in its calculation, CUC believes it is advisable and practical to adopt an easier method, like the MFAC.

In the past three years since

the creation of the LEAC model, he said a significant amount of time and resources have been utilized to come up with a final figure, all of which are shouldered by CUC.

"There's nothing wrong with the [LEAC] concept, but one of our issues is that this model is complicated. We try to look for a simpler way and CUC believes that there's a better way to address that. I do agree with the premise that it's nice to have a number for six months but it would be more difficult for our customers to budget [their monies] especially in this

time of austerity. Sometimes, a six-month period is not good," Warren told Alepuyo at the meeting.

Warren disclosed that the Dallas meeting is set on Dec. 15 to 17 and presentation of the revised model will be in January.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the meeting will be costly for CUC if it is held on island.

"If the meeting was here, I anticipate that Georgetown would fly two, and perhaps three consultants here. CUC would most likely fly two consultants here. Plus, the hearing examiner will be attending the meeting. So, just on airfares alone, I expect CUC to save \$5,000 to \$8,000," Warren told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Fitial asks Republican lawmakers if they are seeking re-election

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

After telling some Republicans to "drink milk" if they're unhappy with his selection as CNMI Republican Party president, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is now asking GOP members of the Legislature to let him know by Dec. 30 whether they are seeking re-election.

Most Republican lawmakers asked for comment yesterday said they haven't decided yet whether to seek re-election or not, and whether they will run under the Republican Party should they seek re-election.

Others like Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said they have yet to see the governor's letter.

House minority leader Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan), for his part, said he has yet to talk to his family and supporters on the issue of re-election.

"I am not in a hurry to make a decision," he said.

One of the incumbents also said the governor's letter seeks to "prioritize" Republicans "but where does that leave Covenant members?"

Man arrested for allegedly stealing a case of beer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A 32-year-old man who reportedly caused a pileup involving four cars in 2004 was arrested on Tuesday night, this time for allegedly stealing a case of beer from a store.

Oscar Porras Jr., 33 was served with an arrest warrant in San Vicente for theft.

At a hearing on Thursday, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed Porras' temporary release on a bail of \$100 cash and \$900 unsecured bond.

Wiseman set a review hearing on Dec. 5, 2011 at 1:30pm for Porras' 2004 traffic case.

Police reports state that officers responded to a theft case at the Grand Market in Lower Navy Hill on Sept. 29, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Police investigation showed that a man had entered the Grand Market and put a case of beer and a loaf of bread on the counter, while carrying another case of beer in his left arm. He then ran out of the store with the case of beer in his arm without paying for it and jumped onto the bed of a pickup truck that sped off.

Detective Kevin R. Maratita reviewed the store's surveillance footage on Oct. 3 and he said he identified Porras as the suspect. Maratita said he personally knows Porras as the suspect is a regular of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

The detective said he also identified the getaway vehicle

Fitial left the Republican Party to form the Covenant Party for his 2001 and 2005 gubernatorial bids. Although Fitial returned to the Republican Party in January this year, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House members who ran under the Covenant Party, and other individuals remained with the Covenant Party.

Fitial, in his one-page letter to Republican incumbents, said a new provision added to the CNMI Republican Party bylaws is to grant membership to every registered voter in the CNMI "by simply desiring to be a Republican."

The governor said for the 2012 elections, the new bylaws "specifically grant incumbent representatives and senators the opportunity to seek re-election, for the same position, as a candidate for our Grand Old Party."

"If it's your desire, and we hope it is, to seek re-election as a candidate for the RPNMIA, please submit in writing your letter of intent on or before December 30, 2011. Your letter can be hand-delivered to me or to any of the other Party officials or mail it to the address above or e-mail it to me at fitial@yahoo.com," Fitial said.

The governor said as president of the party, he is honored to report that "we have been working diligently to address many suggestions that we continue to receive from our members to ensure that our party is strong and successful in the upcoming mid-term elections."

He said an important suggestion is to strengthen party membership by welcoming new members and "to do whatever is necessary to put in place a strong organization and party machinery from the grassroots level, starting with our families, friends, and neighbors, all the way to the national level before the 2012 elections.

"Thus, our party is made stronger by virtue of the increase in numbers and in quality of leadership as well," Fitial said.

Fitial was unanimously chosen by those present at a meeting early this month when Juan

N. Babauta stepped down to devote his time as chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Health Corp.

But sitting Republican lawmakers said they were not invited to the Saturday meeting nor were they informed about

amendments to the party bylaws that paved the way for Fitial, an elected official, to become party president.

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Alcohol-related car crashes dropping since 2009

Alcohol-related vehicular crashes in the CNMI have significantly decreased since 2009, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Police records show that in 2009, 82 of 1,914 traffic crashes were alcohol-related. Of seven fatalities, three were caused by alcohol-related crashes.

In 2010, 68 of 1,256 vehicular crashes were alcohol-related. Of five fatalities, alcohol was a contributing factor in three fatalities.

This year, from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, DPS said that only 57 of 1,962 traffic crashes were alcohol-related, and only one fatality in which alcohol was a con-

tributing factor.

DPS said that comparing 2009 and 2011 shows a 17-percent decline in alcohol-related crashes. From 2009 to 2010, DPS said, there was also a 16-percent decline in alcohol-related crashes.

On Wednesday, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a proclamation declaring De-

cember as CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving (3Ds) Prevention Month.

“As we celebrate the joyous holiday season, we can help save lives by preventing impaired driving. In order to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors traveling on our highways and roads, we must continue to fight drunk and drugged driving every day of the month and every month throughout the year,” Inos said.

The lieutenant governor urged the community and leaders to join the national “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign from Nov. 27, 2011, to Jan. 3, 2012.

“I urge everyone to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting against drunk and drugged driving,” Inos said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Man who hits boy with ext. cord gets 60-day jail term

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 60-day prison term on a man who repeatedly hit a 16-year-old boy with an extension cord on the arm and back and slapped him in the face on Tinian.

Wiseman sentenced 37-year-old Eugene M. San Nicolas to a year in pris-

on, all suspended except for 60 days, for assault and battery.

In a written order issued early this week, Wiseman gave San Nicolas credit for the seven days he had already spent in jail.

San Nicolas was ordered to start serving the remaining days of his sentence

on Jan. 10, 2012. He will be released on April 3, 2012.

After completing his sentence, San Nicolas will be placed on supervised probation for a year. He was also directed to undergo anger management counseling and to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged San Nicolas with assault

with a dangerous weapon, child abuse, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

San Nicolas, assisted by assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

San Nicolas hit the victim in the face several times and repeatedly struck

him with an extension cord on Feb. 18, 2011. A responding police officer observed swelling on the boy’s back, left arm, behind the left ear, left forearm, and right hand.

Police said that San Nicolas admitted hitting the boy for talking back.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorring prosecuted the case. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

DHS

From Page 1

“Through this approach, both governments would be able to maximize promotion efforts and market travel packages that would include visits to both the CNMI and Guam. Now that Guam will be given parole authority for Russian tourists, this concerted approach can also be used to beef up travel promotions to Russian tourists,” Demapan said.

Sablan, in an interview, said he sees an “opportunity for us to wok together with Guam,” and congratulates Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, the Guam governor, elected officials, the

business community, and the rest of the Guam community for pushing for the visa waiver program.

“My recommendation is that we need to market the Marianas – Guam, Saipan, Luta, and Tinian as a destination... We need to market this together,” he said.

Sablan also said the CNMI continues to benefit from the parole authority for Chinese tourists visiting the CNMI. China and Russia are the CNMI’s emerging tourism markets.

Bordallo, in a statement, said President Barack Obama personally informed her that Russia will be added to those countries that can visit Guam without a visa, under parole authority, during a meeting on board Air Force One.

Obama had invited Bordallo to accompany him back to Washington, D.C. following the president’s trip to the Asia-Pacific region for the Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation meeting last week.

The extension of parole authority will permit, on a case-by-case basis, eligible Russian nationals to travel to either the CNMI or Guam for purposes of tourism.

Russian nationals who wish to visit other parts of the U.S. will still be required to obtain visas in advance of their trips.

These individuals may not engage in local employment or labor for hire. DHS has not announced a timeline for implementing this change to parole authority in Guam.

DHS has also not made any final decision on granting parole authority for Chinese nationals to travel to Guam. However, DHS has committed to working with Bordallo and Guam stakeholders.

“I appreciate Secretary Napolitano’s decision to grant Guam parole authority for Russian tourists, and I thank President Obama for his leadership in pressing DHS to move forward with this process,” Bordallo said.

She said she had hoped that the DHS decision would include China as it seemed that the recent visit of Guam stakeholders to Washington, D.C. made progress in addressing concerns pertaining to parole authority for Chinese visitors.

“However, President Obama informed me that while they can move on Russia now, China remains an open issue. While I am disappointed that this announcement did not include parole authority for Chinese visitors, I will continue to work with this administration to address any concerns. We will build off this positive step forward and continue to press hard for inclusion of Chinese visitors,” Bordallo said.

She also said she looks forward to the Guam economy benefiting from increased visitors from the Russian Federation, and it can now work with the visitor industries in Guam and the CNMI to start to develop a regional marketing approach to drawing visitors from Russia.

KILILI

From Page 1

on his H.R. 1466.

The same individuals covered by Sablan’s H.R. 1466 are eligible to apply for this parole.

H.R. 1466 seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status for:

- Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008 and continuing to be on the islands;
- CNMI permanent residents;
- Those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978; and
- Spouses, parents, or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

However, unlike HR 1466, USCIS’ statement didn’t distinguish between those who are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens before or after May 8, 2008. This gives hope to parents of U.S. citizens born after May 8, 2008 and not covered by HR 1466.

Fitial’s concern

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed “grave concern” about the degree of impact this would have on the Commonwealth, said press secretary Angel Demapan.

“The cost of allowing all these unemployed [and unemployable] foreigners to remain in a very small economy like the CNMI is very high. This could give rise to a larger underground economy and cause more legitimate businesses to close,” Demapan said.

Demapan added that Fitial “is most concerned about the economic and social harm this development may cause.”

“The governor will request a meeting with USCIS Director Mayorkas when he heads to Washington, D.C. for the NGA [National Governors Association] meeting in February. Hopefully,

a much more prudent and just solution can be agreed upon then,” Demapan said.

Sablan, in an interview at the Salvation Army Thanksgiving meal at Minatchom Atdao in Susupe, said he’s hoping that Fitial would join him in his effort to help U.S. citizens who happen to have immediate relatives from another country.

“Obviously, he didn’t want this to happen, [but] it did. Obviously, he didn’t want additional money for food stamps, [but] it did. This is the right thing to do and I hope the governor will find it in this heart today on Thanksgiving today [to support this],” the delegate said.

Sablan also said he’s touched by what Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said on the eve of Thanksgiving, who thanked nonresidents for their contributions to the CNMI and expressing sympathy to foreign workers and their families who are affected by the recent developments in CNMI immigration.

No change

Sablan, in responding to media questions, said he will not be changing his HR 1466 to include long-term nonresidents who do not have U.S. citizen children.

“If I include those, the bill is not going anywhere. That’s the sad news, that’s the difficult news. It’s not as if I’m working in a vacuum. It’s not as if I haven’t broached the idea, but I will say this: If we include other people besides those covered in the four groups, the bill will not move,” he said.

Marilou Ancheta, 52, said her family’s Thanksgiving just got more meaningful with this news from USCIS.

Ancheta, who came to Saipan in 1993 to work as a house worker and later as a cook, lost her job only in October 2011 because of the slow economy. Losing

her legal job after 18 years caused great concern to her whole family, especially since they still have two minor U.S. citizen children who might be separated from their parents who would be out of status after Nov. 28.

“Losing your job after 18 years is sad news. And it’s been difficult to find a job because of the economy and the limited period between the time I lost my job and Nov. 27. So if I could apply and get parole until December 2012, that would give me more time to look for a job and prepare the whole family,” she said.

She said she already submitted a humanitarian parole request with USCIS on Oct. 21, but has yet to receive a decision on her request.

Chan Yong, 43, was preparing to submit a humanitarian parole request when USCIS made the announcement yesterday. Now, he is not sure whether to go ahead with mailing his parole request or to wait for further USCIS instruction.

Chan came from the Jiangsu Province in China and came to work on Saipan in 2001 as a sewing machine operator/cutter. The pullout of the garment industry left him jobless since 2010. He also has a U.S. citizen son born in 2002 who has since been sent to China. Chan wants his son to come back here to study, but he has yet to find a job.

Wait for USIS instruction

USCIS, in a statement, said those who are eligible for this kind of parole are asked not to apply for parole “until USCIS announces more specific details on how to apply.”

It said it is providing this initial information in order to address concerns of this group of CNMI residents in light of the pending expiration of umbrella permits on Nov. 27, to assist them in making appropriate plans for the future.

The public is asked to continue checking www.uscis.gov/cnmi for updates on the latest USCIS guidance.

USCIS has exercised parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations.

There has also been a surge in the number of nonresidents applying for parole the last few weeks, along with employers’ filing of Commonwealth-only worker petitions.

Employment authorization

USCIS said if an individual is eligible for this type of parole, he “cannot” work or apply for an employment authorization document or EAD until he is authorized for parole.

“A grant of parole will provide continuing lawful presence after Nov. 27, 2011, and authorize you to apply for an EAD,” it said.

USCIS is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

USCIS also said foreign workers working only under an umbrella permit “are not” authorized to be employed in the CNMI on or after Nov. 28, 2011, except for certain beneficiaries of transitional worker petitions.

‘Thankful’

Sablan said that Mayorkas, during their 5am phone conversation, said that after much consideration, the decision was reached to provide humanitarian parole to persons in the four groups covered by H.R. 1466.

“It certainly is welcome news on this Thanksgiving Day. We have been working with the White House and with the Department of Homeland Security since the beginning of the year to make parole—the administrative remedy—available in the event that H.R. 1466 had not been enacted by the Nov. 28 transition to federal immigration control,” he said.

Sablan said he’s very grateful to Mayorkas, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, and, ultimately, President Barack Obama.

“They understand the need for this parole, particularly so that the families of U.S. citizens will not face separation after Nov. 28, if the non-U.S. citizen family members do not have a CW or other status permitting them to remain legally in the NMI,” he said.

The delegate raised the issue with Obama most recently on Sept. 23 during a meeting at the White House.

“Today’s decision gives us some breathing room to get the bill passed. In the meantime, persons in the four groups have the opportunity to get parole status, so they can remain legally in the Northern Marianas and families will not have to face separation,” he said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that he’s happy to hear about this latest immigration news.

“It gives us a little breathing room, and will help individuals, although not everyone,” he said.

Marcos Sase, 46, said if it’s true that the kind of parole that USCIS just announced covers immediate relatives of U.S. citizens regardless of when these IRs’ U.S. citizen were born in the CNMI, then he would be eligible to apply. He said he’s not covered in HR 1466.

Sase came to Saipan in 1995 to work as a cook at Hafa Adai Beach Hotel. His latest employer was Rota Resort Hotel and Country Club but his contract was not renewed on Feb. 19, 2011. He has a 1-year-old U.S. citizen daughter.

“I am hoping that all long-term aliens in the CNMI will be granted parole. This is what we’ve been fighting for,” he said, referring to the Occupy USCIS movement that has set up a tent near the USCIS office in Garapan.

Fund holds off filing case vs Sword and his company

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund will temporarily hold off filing a case against Express Electronics Ltd. due to the caseload of its attorneys.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar said this is the main reason why no case has been filed against Gary Sword's company following the pension program's decision to sue Express

Electronics Ltd.

The Fund board earlier vowed to pursue a case against Sword due to the defective and non-functioning pension software system his company provided the Fund.

The board's decision came following Express Electronics' non-compliance with the 10-day ultimatum the Fund issued the company in July.

The pension software project cost \$449,000 and the contract

for Express Electronics was signed in 2008.

The Fund has already paid Sword \$402,340, which represents 89.4 percent of the overall cost of the project. Based on the terms and conditions of the contract, the pension software system was supposed to be completed in 2009 but this never came about, resulting in a delay of more than three years.

Igisomar, however, pointed out that the decision to sue Sword still stands and will be executed soon after the Fund's lawyers and counsels have more time to do it. He said all four lawyers are attending to "more pressing" cases and matters, a majority of which arose from the enactment of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act in September.

He said there's no way the board will change its action against the contractor. "We do

not have enough attorneys to continue with pressing the necessary action that we directed regarding the pension software contractor. But the board decision still stands and will never change," he said.

In the single audit performed for the Fund in 2009, the pension software system was among the serious findings noted by auditors.

The Fund has two outside counsels: Viola Alepuyo and Braddock J. Huesman. These two had already expressed their intention to resign but have been asked to stay on just yet. As a condition, they pared down the number of cases they are handling and passed on these cases to the Fund's attorneys, Christopher Timmons and Carolyn Kern.

Igisomar said both Timmons and Kern are overloaded with

pending cases where the Fund is either a defendant or a respondent. Among these cases are the ones filed against Merrill Lynch, the government, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The Fund has been announcing its need for two more lawyers.

Igisomar said that he will recommend to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez to re-announce the vacancy announcement for a third time. He declined to say how many proposals were received by the Fund in the first two announcements.

\$28M federal funds assured for PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth public schools are guaranteed \$28 million in federal funds this fiscal year, which represents all regular grants given to PSS each fiscal year, according to Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

The federal assistance will come from various granting agencies like the U.S. Department of Education for specific programs and purposes including the annual consolidated grant, the nutrition assistance program grant, for special education, and Head Start program.

These federal monies, Thornburgh said, may increase, depending on the approval of some PSS grant applications such as the competitive \$632,000 grant for staff professional development from the Office of Insular Affairs and about \$4 million in discretionary funds for tracking students' progress.

"What we are sure to receive this fiscal year 2012 are the regular grants [for consolidated grant, nutrition assistance program, special education, and Head Start programs] and this amounts to \$28 million. But we're working on some discretionary and competitive grants

that hopefully will add to these federal monies for our schools," said Thornburgh.

PSS will only get \$30 million from the local government this fiscal year; \$28 million will be used to pay for personnel salary while \$2 million will go to operation and all others.

Thornburgh said that federal funds greatly help the school system because it supplements the funding shortage at the local level.

PSS received \$8 million from the federal education jobs fund in fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and the amount was used to pay for teacher salaries. However, with Congress yet to act on President Obama's American Jobs Act, Thornburgh said PSS may not get any federal monies from this initiative this fiscal year.

The proposed Act would allocate \$18 million for PSS: \$12 million for teachers' salary and retention and \$6 million for school repairs.

Another version of the American Jobs Act proposes to give PSS up to \$24 million.

Either way, Thornburgh said the legislation will greatly benefit the Commonwealth's schoolchildren. He said PSS is still hopeful that despite the approaching political season in the U.S., the bill will still pass.

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These are people, not just statistics

By JOE RACE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following story is part of a continuing series of stories related to the effects of the new federal immigration policy, as seen from the perspective of people who will be affected by those changes.

High unemployment and the fate of foreign workers are topics of conversation in every government office and the island coffee shops. Businesses are closing and many local people are moving to the mainland for better opportunities.

Another group of people is suffering also, but they're not

able to just pick up and move to California or Idaho. The deadline of Nov. 27 is fast approaching and still hundreds, maybe thousands, of foreign workers, brought here legally, are facing the possibility of being sent back to their home country, and either taking or leaving their American-born children. The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is quite clear: people born in the USA are by law U.S. citizens—but not their parents.

I attended a Presbyterian Church on Sunday and encountered dozens of people already contemplating a return to their home country, faced with such questions as: Should

I sell my belongings and vehicle? Can I find a friend to take care of my children? I wonder if the government is working on this situation?

I took a sampling of those attending church, and found that many of these folks are unemployed and can't find jobs, but have umbrella permits. This time I talked directly to many of the children, bright and alert youngsters. These are true-to-life accounts: people not sure of where their next meal will come from, or what the future has in store for them and their offspring:

ZHA XUE YINN

Zha came to Saipan in 1998

to work in the garment industry, which moved away to other countries several years ago. Zha was already entrenched on Saipan. She has an 8-year-old daughter Melanie and a 10-year-old son Michael. Both children attend Oleai Elementary School; they speak three different languages, one of which is almost perfect English.

LIN MZI DAN: Lin came to Saipan as a waitress in 1997. Of course, we see restaurants closing every week and there aren't any jobs for her to apply. She has two children: Lindsey Lin Jing in the first grade and 4-year-old Lin Zhi Xiang in Headstart.

ZHANG HAI HONG:

Zhang came in 2009 to study

English and business. She delivered her healthy son Richard a few years later. She wants to work but cannot because of the uncertain status of student and/or worker status.

HU YAN PING: Hu came to Saipan in 1998 to work in the garment industry. Now, she cannot even find part-time work in sewing shops scattered around the island. She delivered her son Hu An Ni two years ago. Well, we know the garment industry on Saipan has just become part of recent history.

I noted that the people are nervous, but still positive about the government helping them to stay with their children. I also observed that their children

were well-fed and nurtured, and more than likely will grow up to be good citizens for our country, the land of immigrants.

I'm sure Mr. Scrooge wouldn't care about sending children home to uncertainty during the upcoming holidays. But as kind-hearted fellow Americans, we would and should care about the children. Even Mr. Scrooge eventually saw the light. Christmas is about goodwill to all men and peace on Earth...and that's what we should do during the festive season—offering our goodwill in keeping the families together.

In a special request to our government: Congressman Sablan, please continue your hard work on behalf of our fellow Americans. *Si yu'us ma'ase! Mahalo!*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. wants to do more inspections of homes where their housing subsidy beneficiaries live amid growing concerns that there might be a rapid turnover rate with several landlords and that some of the units are

NMHC eyes more housing unit inspections

not fully occupied.

At present, the agency inspects these housing units once a year.

"We're required to do an inspection once every year. That inspection is on the anniversary date, if you will. Of course,

tenants move in all the time throughout the year—different months. The number of inspections we do varies widely by month," corporate director Joshua Sasamoto said during Monday's board meeting.

Board chair Marcie Tomo-

kane recommended that NMHC do the inspection "every six months" to check if tenants on their records are the actual tenants at the housing units, and that a surprise visit is preferred.

Sasamoto explained, however, that the NMHC staff are lim-

ited by their 7:30am to 4:30pm work hours, not to mention the implementation of government-wide austerity measures.

Board member Diego Songao, for his part, said he would support an inspection "at least once every quarter to make sure

that tenants are really following the policies we set forth between them and the landlord."

Songao believes that a quarterly inspection would help them find out whether the landlord provides "the full amount of services that a tenant is supposed to be receiving" and if the tenants themselves abide by agency policies as well as landlord-tenant agreement.

Sasamoto noted that a quarterly inspection would mean an additional 120 inspections per month for their inspector which he said "would be very, very difficult, if not impossible."

According to Tomokane, a landlord who has a high turnover rate of tenants could be a "red flag" landlord and should be weeded out of their list.

Sasamoto hinted that determining if the landlord is a "red flag" could be tricky since tenants have the option to move to another unit once they finish the first year of a lease.

"It is entirely up to the tenant about where they want to stay and when they want to move. ...After the first year, they can move anywhere for no reason whatsoever," he said.

Waiting list

Board member Pedro Itibus wants to find out if there is any way to determine if tenants are receiving "some kind of money" through better paying jobs to enable them to move out of the Housing Choice Voucher or Section 8 program and let others on the waiting list benefit from the program.

Program and Housing Division manager Zerlyn Taimanao told the board that there are 569 names on their Section 8 waiting list, ranked by date, time, and federal preferences through a system approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tomokane and Sasamoto pointed out that tenants can stay up to 50 years "as long as they qualify and meet the guidelines."

"Then all the 500 applicants that are still waiting will still be waiting and they would probably die before they go out [of the list]," said Songao.

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Job referrals, not job fairs on Tinian, says mayor

NEWS BRIEFS

Pre-application training for ANA grants

The Administration for Native Americans is offering pre-application training to assist prospective ANA applicants in the preparation of a project and the application in response to ANA's annual Funding Opportunity Announcement(s) in addition to providing direction on criterion and program requirements, policies and procedures ANA has identified. The training sessions are offered free of charge.

Participation in the training session is limited to individuals serving Native American Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives. The training sessions will be conducted at Northern Marianas College on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 28 and 29, from 9am to 4pm in room D-1. Rota and Tinian participants can attend the training sessions via teleconference at the Rota and Tinian NMC campuses at the same time and date. To register online and for training information go to www.anapacificbasin.org. You may also come to the training session as a walk-in. For more information on Saipan, call 322-0278 and ask for Manny. (PR)

Navy, Air Force set training on WA-517, FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on Nov. 29 and 30 from 8am to 5pm. The U.S. Air Force, meanwhile, will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 1, from 7am to 10pm, and on Dec. 2-3, from 7am to 6pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

The money that will be used to host a job fair on Tinian will not be “well-spent,” according to Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz.

“It’s such a small resident labor pool there. I don’t think it’s worth the expense,” said Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz noted, however, that he prefers to do job referrals for unemployed Tinian residents “rather than put together a job fair that’s going to be attended by very few people.”

The mayor’s remarks come weeks after two job fairs on Saipan by the CNMI Department of Commerce in October and the Department of Labor early this month.

Both events attracted over a thousand U.S. workers looking

for jobs, most of which have been announced in accordance to the final rule governing CNMI-only transitional workers.

“As to put together a job fair on Tinian, if I have the money I’ll do it,” said Dela Cruz. “But with the limited budget, I think

‘Statistics point to diabetes crisis in the region’

Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition chair John Oliver Gonzales encouraged the community to live healthy amid “crisis statistics” indicating increase in the number of individuals affected by diabetes.

“Diabetes is of epidemic proportion in the Pacific and we are in the Pacific,” said Gonzales.

Gonzales, who warned that diabetes affects every part of the body, said a study called Family

it’s not necessary.”

According to Dela Cruz, unemployed Tinian residents have been referred to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, which remains the biggest private sector employer on the island.

“Dynasty has been very gra-

cious, they’ve been very supportive, and they’re hiring local people,” he said, adding that its representatives always goes to the Tinian High School and encourage graduating students to apply for a job there. (Clarissa V. David)

had a history of diabetes.

The number of individuals receiving dialysis based on the samples was 78 or 17 percent on Saipan while Guam showed 296 or 16 percent.

“We need to wake up,” said Gonzales. “We need to incorporate green eating, green living. We need to start eating raw vegetables, no more processed foods, no more imported goods.” (Clarissa V. David)

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MINA presses on with environment programs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The community-based, non-profit group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance seeks to become "the voice of conservation in the CNMI through its various programs that promote and advocate for the protection and restoration of natural resources.

Executive director Sam Sablan said yesterday that they are carrying on with these programs and events through the help of the community.

Among these events was the inaugural Eat Out for the Environment last Sept. 9. The event featured five restaurant—Aoi Restaurant at Saipan Grand Hotel, Chambre at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Shirley's Coffee Shop,

360 Revolving Restaurant, and Shenanigans—that donated to MINA a portion of their revenue on that day.

The event successfully raised \$1,191.12. "It's not as much as we had hoped for but we're hoping to continue with this event every year and hopefully, from there, grow," said Sablan, adding that they plan to do it one restaurant per month in next year's event.

Another program that just started in October is the MINA Mondays at Java Joe's in Dandan, during which the coffee shop would donate a small portion of the cost of coffee to MINA if customers come in with traveling mugs to discourage the use of Styrofoam cups and promote environmentally-friendly consumer practices.

"By bringing your travel mug, you're saving the environment," said Sablan.

He also disclosed that the 15 sponsors—individuals, businesses, and government agencies—of their Adopt-a-Bin program, which started in March 2010, have agreed to continue and renew their adoption of 17 bins.

Sablan expressed hope that more businesses will support the program by paying for the fabrication of bins and the hauling of trash so as not to be restricted where they would place the bins.

"Rather than just in coastal areas, I would also like to help public schools, churches, or wherever there's a large number of people gathering," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "We want to

make an impact."

Last month, MINA also coordinated with the members of Saipan Unity Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club who planted about 50 trees at the Lao Lao Bay beach area.

Sablan urged the public to support MINA in their efforts to help the environment, promote conservation, and raise awareness in environmental issues in the CNMI.

"In order for us to continue to raise those awareness, we need the support of the community financially and volunteer-wise," she said.

For more information, visit MINA office along Beach Road next to Naked Fish, call 233-REEF (7333) or email sablansam@gmail.com.

Drivers urged to watch out for cyclists

Motorists are being urged to be particularly cautious when driving on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3, when the CNMI hosts the 5th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

In a notice issued by Pacific Islands Club, it said that cyclists will be riding in packs from 6:30am to 9:30am on the north-bound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman

and Capital Hill.

There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive in the morning, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all.

For additional safety measures, the public is being en-

couraged to restrain their dogs in the morning along the route. The 100km (62-mile) course takes racers from PIC through Koblerville to the Airport, past Herman's Bakery through San Vicente, Papago, down to Lao Lao Golf Course entrance and back, down to Kingfisher Golf Links and back, down Capital Hill, to the top of San Roque's Radar Station, to Suicide Cliff,

Bird Island Lookout, the Grotto, Banzai Cliff, to American Memorial Park, and back to PIC.

Approximately 200 cyclists are expected to race in this international event with professionals from Australia, Russia, Korea, Japan, Guam, and Saipan.

"Drivers, please be careful as more bicyclists will be riding on the roads training from now until Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011," the notice said. (PR)



THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Congregates at the Aging Center bless the Thanksgiving food brought by the members of the Rotary Club of Saipan for their annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Financial aid available for students pursuing careers in food, nutrition, and public health

» Part of effort to eliminate childhood obesity in the Pacific Region

As part of its efforts to curb childhood obesity, the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services is encouraging those seeking a career focused on food, nutrition, and public health to apply for the Children's Healthy Living Training Program, which provides financial assistance and support at selected college and university degree programs.

The CHL Training Program is designed to provide 22 promising undergraduate and graduate students in the Pacific Region, including the CNMI, with financial aid to pursue their studies to specified programs at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks

and Anchorage), University of Hawaii at Manoa, Windward Community College, Kapi'olani Community College, or the University of Guam.

Unique to the program is the opportunity for students to complement their degree with additional training in research, outreach and other approaches related to preventing childhood obesity in the Pacific region.

Applicants should be a resident of a jurisdiction included in CHL (i.e., Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia) and must

be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National, U.S. green-card holder, or a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau.

Students who are indigenous/native to the jurisdictions noted above are encouraged to apply.

Further, applicants must apply to, or be currently enrolled in, a CHL-approved degree program to be eligible for admission into the CHL Training Program. Since the CHL Training Program is conducted within existing degree programs, applicants must meet all the admissions requirements of the degree program to which they are applying, as well as additional admission criteria im-

posed by CHL.

The CHL Training Program is accepting applicants for Fall 2012 admission.

Applications to the CHL Training Program are due to CNMI Lead Site Co-I Dr. Jang Ho Kim by Dec. 30, 2011. Dr. Kim will forward all applications to the CHL Admissions Committee by Jan. 15, 2012. To view the application process and to obtain more detailed information about the CHL Training Program, visit <http://www.chl-pacific.org/>.

The CHL Program for Remote Underserved Minority Populations in the Pacific Region is a partnership among Pacific jurisdictions, including the CNMI through the leadership of NMC-CREES. (NMC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 26, 1999

DPH saves \$1 million from medical referral

The Department of Public Health has saved a little over \$1 million from its medical referral program in Fiscal Year 1999 after it brought in six specialists to treat patients on the island. According to Health Secretary Kevin Joseph Villagomez, the medical experts include a dermatologist, neurologist and urologist, who mostly came from Honolulu. He said the department has been working closely with Queens and Sta. Francis Hospitals in Honolulu to find ways on how to save more money on health care. Air fare and housing costs took the biggest chunk of the medical referral budget, said Mr. Villagomez. To pare down expenditures, DPH has outlined restrictions although it still allows a medical escort in extreme cases.

NMI must stem the spread of AIDS

The Issue: A single case of AIDS is enough to sound the alarm bell of this costly and deadly plague. Our View: Aggressive public education is needed to stem the spread of this disease among all who live in these isles. AIDS was once unheard of in this archipelago some 30 years ago. That we now have 30 people infected by it is sufficient for the entire community to rally behind the call to stem the spread of this deadly plague. AIDS can be contracted through the use of needles among drug users, infected blood administered to patients through blood transfusion, same gender sex and promiscuity. One of these routes could land anybody a long bout with this crippling and deadly disease.

Nov. 26, 2001

AGO paves way for lower port fees

The Attorney General's Office has approved the suspension of the scheduled terminal tariff rate hike as well as the extension of the Airline Incentive Program, the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed Friday. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said that the suspension of the tariff increase in seaports and the extension of the discount program for airline companies flying Saipan are anticipated to help keep the local economy afloat. Palacios said that, prior to its approval, the AGO gave the public 30 days to comment on the proposal—the Emergency Regulation Suspending the Terminal Tariff Rate Increases, which was also filed before the CNMI Registrar of Corporation and the Office of the Governor.

Teno helps ensure smooth transfer of power

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has instructed all agencies of the CNMI government to cooperate with the incoming administration's Transition Committee to ensure the smooth turnover of executive powers come January. Tenorio said he issued a memorandum on Friday to all department and division heads of government offices and semi-autonomous agencies, urging them to extend their fullest cooperation to the transition team. "Yes, I have already given instruction to all departments to accommodate and cooperate with the transition committee and to give them all the necessary data they ask for in aid of a smooth transition of executive powers," Tenorio said.

Nov. 26, 2002

Govt warns vs non-issuance of receipts

The government is considering deputizing many of its employees to implement a new law that requires businesses and stores to issue receipts to customers—an effort aimed at better tax enforcement to improved government revenue collection. House Rep. Andrew Salas said the government has lost millions of dollars in revenue that should have gone to the Commonwealth's coffers if businesses fully declare their gross receipts. "We feel that the government is being cheated of revenue," Salas said. "Everybody that I have met experienced going to the store without [getting] a receipt." Salas said the issuance of receipts is mandated by a new law called the Cash Register Act, which was recently signed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta.

House panel to tackle MPLA abolition bill

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider has instructed his standing committee on natural resources to start weighing the merits of the legislation that proposes to abolish the Marianas Public Lands Authority. The bill, authored by Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera, offers to transfer the public agency's functions to a division within the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Hofschneider, in an interview yesterday, said the House intends to be methodical in going about House Bill 13-225, by way of conducting hearings or commissioning investigations, if needed.

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More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 15, 2011.

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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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Will Mitt get prettier at closing time?

By LANE FILLER
NEWSDAY

More and more, the search for a Republican presidential candidate feels like we're all ladies looking for love in a singles bar on a Saturday night. You walk in buoyed by the excitement of the hunt, hoping this time you'll find the one.

The first guy you spy is Mitt Romney, sitting at the bar and nursing his Shirley Temple like always. He tosses you a wave and you return it. Solid guy, Mitt. A little wormy, maybe, but respectful and polite. Someone you could dine with and not have to pretend your mom just got hit by a runaway snowmobile to make a quick exit.

Out of the corner of the eye you see Ron Paul and duck. Ron's wicked smart, but you're not really looking for a six-hour conversation on the Federal Reserve and the gold standard, so you're relieved when he doesn't see you.



Hello, who is this? Nice-looking, in a blow-dried way. The boots are a bit much. He smiles, walks over and says, "Hi, my name's Rick Perry."

"Hello, handsome," you reply. "Whaddaya know?" You've given him the perfect opening, your flirtatious smile says, "Show me you can be my man." But he freezes up.

"I, uh, what do I know?" he splutters. "I ... or rather, that is ... can I get back to you?"

Perplexed, you move on and, OH MY GOD, IS THAT RICK SANTORUM? Quick, dash for the bathroom before he sees you. Why does he even show up? Doesn't he know no one likes him? It's like the man's just got nothing better to do.

Rattled, you step to the mirror for a quick hair check and realize you're sharing glass with Michele Bachmann. She's well put-together, but you don't swing her way. Sure, you experimented with rabid fundamentalism in college—what conservative didn't?—but that's a long time ago, and she's not selling anything the adult you is buying.

Primping done, you head back to the bar and immediately fall into a cloud of charisma.

"Hello, gorgeous," he says. "My name is Herman Cain and I have a plan for us I think you're going to love." It's impressive. He's enthusiastic and good-looking, he sings like an angel, and he's a self-made millionaire, educated and fun. He can't name the leader of every second-rate Third World country, but who can?

The conversation sails along, and intrigued, you finally ask, "What was that plan you had for us?"

"I thought I'd buy you nine shots of tequila, and then we'd go somewhere more private and get to know each other."

"Nine?" you say.

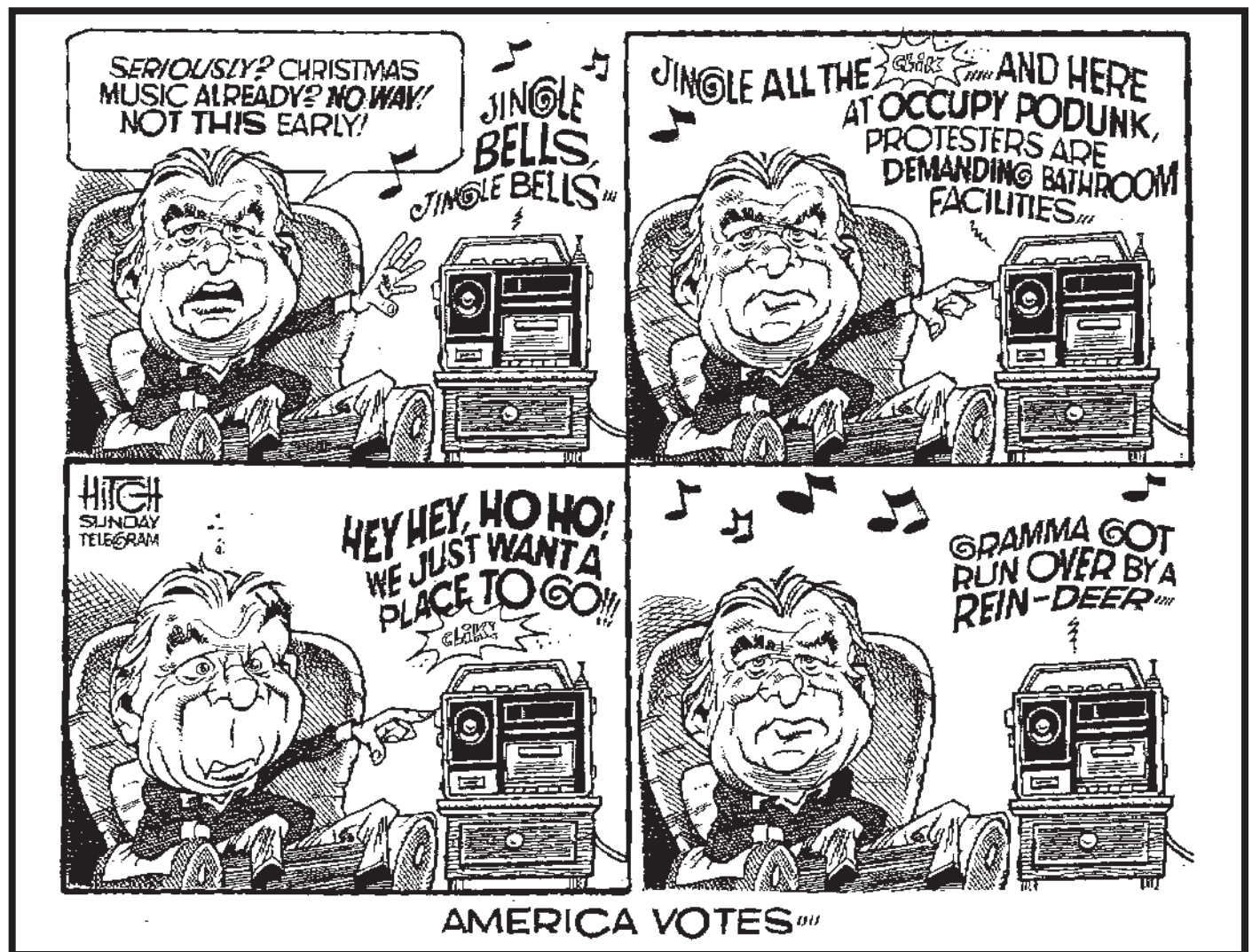
"Nine," he replies, and you excuse yourself from the suddenly creepy conversation, polite but firm.

Turning to walk away, you run smack into Newt Gingrich and it all starts flooding back. The hope, the pain, the promises broken. With these other guys, you wait for them to make a mistake. With Newt, you don't wait for blunders, you recall them.

Sure, you had something special in 1994, and old flames sometimes burn brightest, but the letdowns, the lies, the cheating and the denials are still too vivid.

He chats you up and there's no doubt he still knows how

See WILL on Next Page



Keep those GOP debates coming

Some people seem to think the Republicans are staging way too many debates. Heck no. We can never have enough.

By my count, there have been 14 since spring, and 13 more are on tap. This is welcome news, because the GOP is staging one of the great reality shows, with a rollicking cast of colorful characters who keep getting voted off the island but keep coming back for more.

There's a cliff-hanger every week.

Will Rick Perry master the English sentence and reclaim his cognitive memory?

Will Michele Bachmann utter another whopper that is light-years from factual reality?

Will Newt Gingrich double-down on his claim that Freddie Mac paid him big bucks for his advice "as a historian"?

Will Herman Cain demonstrate that he knows the difference between Afghanistan and what he has called "Ubeki-beki-beki-beki-stan-stan"?

Will Rick Santorum volunteer to personally lead the first bombing raid on Iran?

Will Jon Huntsman stop reminding viewers that he looks like Ricky Ricardo on "I Love Lucy"?

And then there's Mitt Romney, still the likely 2012 nominee, who stares at his hapless rivals with a look best described as polite patrician bemusement, as if to say: "Keep talking, inferiors. The deeper you dig your holes, the easier it will be for me to bury you with my money."

Not that he's so great, either. In a debate Nov. 12, Romney said we should stay in Afghanistan for three more years—thereby undercutting what he said in a debate in June, when he urged U.S. troop removals from Afghanistan "as soon as we possibly can," and insisted that we shouldn't fight "a war of independence for another nation." But stay tuned. Which way will the weather vane spin next time?

That June debate was so long ago that T-Paw was still a candidate. Surely you remember T-Paw. Tim Pawlenty's people gave him that nickname in the vain hope that it would inject some pizzazz into his vanilla persona. He should have stuck around, because lately the cable networks have been smothering the candidates in so much glitz that you'd swear they were finalists on "The X Factor." And some of the introductory music has been great. Where else can you see a pizza marketer cross the stage to the strains of martial trumpets best suited for a testosterone summer movie?

But seriously, if not for these debates, the aspirants would be doing most of their politicking in the early caucus and primary states, in the living rooms of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. And we would be denied the opportunity to watch them under pressure, in real time. We would not have the chance to see them grow, or shrink, in the crucible of competition, virtually week by week.

Perry recently complained that the debates were deterring him

By DICK POLMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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from what he does best, chatting up the voters in person. He and his aides say that a candidate should not be judged solely on debating skills (or lack thereof), and they're right about that—up to a point.

Glad-handing and kissing babies are worthy skills, but debates give us a chance to find out whether these people can think on their feet in the spur of the moment. Last I heard, presidents are required to do that a lot, dealing lucidly with the unexpected at 3 in the morning. Debates tend to expose those who are lucidity-challenged, as in:

"It is three agencies of government when I get there that are gone. Commerce, Education, and the, uh—what's the third one there? Let's see ... OK. Commerce, Education, and the ... I would do away with Education, uh, the, uh, Commerce, and, let's see. I can't. The third one, I can't. Sorry. Oops."

Viewers saw that one for themselves, live and unfiltered. They delivered a thumbs-down verdict on Perry's performance in real time. Indeed, these debates are in perfect sync with the contemporary gestalt. People screw up on "American Idol," they quickly pay a price. I suppose you can argue that debates are no way to pick a president and that there are too many debates in this election cycle, but at this point you might as well complain that there are too many cars on the road.

The thing is, these debates are a hit in the ratings. Granted, tens of millions of Americans would probably prefer to gargle thumbtacks before they'd tune in to the GOP candidates, but a recent Fox News debate audience—6.1 million—set a debate record on cable. Cable loves these shows because they're cheap to produce. The co-sponsoring media outlets, like Politico and National Journal, love the shows because they're a chance to publicize their "brand." The co-sponsoring conservative groups and state Republican parties love the shows because they're a chance to raise money. And the money-strapped candidates (in other words, most of them) hunger for the free exposure.

So get ready for many more. Prominent Republicans are reportedly worried that the serial gaffes are damaging the party—as former Reagan chief of staff Kenneth Duberstein fretted Wednesday, "People have to be perceived as capable of governing this country"—but what better way to build suspense for the next installment?

And in the wake of President Obama's recent quip that his 2012 campaign "may just run clips of the Republican debates verbatim," who on that stage is best equipped to prove him wrong?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's a basis point?

“Teachable moment” is a buzzword these days. So I’ll sprinkle some nutritional content into my column today lest you accuse me of piling on just more empty calories during the holiday season. And thus I introduce the term “basis point.” It’s an easy concept, and it’s a mystery to me why it isn’t taught in junior high school to promote some basic level of financial literacy. It’s an essential term if you borrow money, lend money, invest, speculate, or just want to know what the heck is going on in the world.

Incidentally, the topic comes as a suggestion from a Chinese business owner. We were swapping tutelage in Mandarin for help in business English. The term “basis point” came up, and my counterpart requested that I write about it. So this column is part of my “language exchange” obligation.

I’ll start with a dry definition, but if you don’t like my definition, don’t run away, since I’m going to backfill it step-by-step. But we’ll get the defining out of the way by stating that a basis point equals one-hundredth of a percentage point.

Yeah, I see you giving me that look. The look that says, “huh?” Or, maybe, “why should I care?”

But I’ll disarm you with my roguish charm, flashing straight teeth and a cocked smile, and I’ll keep explaining it.

Here’s the deal: “Percent” is a loaded term. And it’s more invasive than crab grass: The entire world is built on contracts and agreements and analysis and terminology that involve percentages.

Good intentions, bad consequences

It was in 1979 when the Legislature overrode the governor’s veto to establish the NMI Retirement Fund. It had good intentions, though it fell short of ascertaining solvency. If you have any doubts, the imperiled Fund is reportedly lurching toward bankruptcy and is owed about \$300 million by the administration.

The retirement program encouraged a good number of private sector employees to move into the public sector. It’s a very attractive perk receiving pension after 20 years of government service. Such perk didn’t exist in private industries. Add piles of other perks like life and health insurance atop cushy pension pay. It was a factor in what’s now a bloated bureaucracy.

And so we have a self-inflicted monstrosity headed into bankruptcy territory with no sense of direction except plunge into the sea of deadly red ink. Those who have contributed to the demise of the Fund are either gone or defeated from public office and won’t be back to wash their dirty laundry. Perhaps they too are pondering their fate when their pension funds stop coming.

We once had lots of money from the garment and tourism industries, enabling over \$256 million in annual government budget. Such isn’t the case today. Those days are gone and we are now choking with debts, not to mention a dysfunctional government that can’t navigate its way out of bankruptcy. It’s the result of walking the red carpet of persistent negligence for over three decades.

The adolescent idea that unprecedented affluence will roll on forever must have caused a certain lassitude—weakness or disinterest—to nurture it. It paralyzed local resolve to the hilt. This paralysis leaves key players dazed at the disaster piling before their eyes. We got drunk, fat, and stupid, too! Well, what rude awakening after years of singing White Christmas when everything around us is green.

The superficial culture of perpetual affluence took its permanent hold and it takes more than muriatic acid to remove the ugly mold of leadership deficit and deficit spending found all over the floor. It dims the future of posterity who quizzes: Is the microcosm in the

Here’s how percentages can lead us astray: Let’s say you’re reading in the news that a tax rate is being increased from 10 percent of income to 12 percent of income. The reporter refers to it as a “2-percent” tax increase, since 12 minus 10 is, indeed, two. But the increase in tax payments in this example isn’t 2 percent, it’s actually 20 percent!

It’s easy to illustrate with numbers: If you pay a 10 percent tax on \$100 of income, your tax is \$10. If the tax rate goes up to 12 percent, then you’ll pay \$12 instead of \$10. So you’re paying \$2 more under the new way than the old way. The increase, \$2, is fully a 20-percent increase over the old payment of \$10. Just divide \$2 by \$10, and there’s your answer; 0.2, or 20 percent.

Anyway, how would we express the increased rate from 10 percent to 12 percent? Well, I would say it is an “increase of 200 basis points.” That’s nice and clean. It gets around a lot of semantic pitfalls. That’s why the pros use it.

I’ve used big, fat, round numbers thus far, but basis points are more typically used for little, tiny, exact numbers. For example, let’s say you are shopping for a mortgage. The loan officer offers you a loan at a 5.0 percent interest rate if you sign the papers on Monday, but if you wait until Tuesday, the rate will go up by 15 basis points. And that’s the way he will probably say it, “15 basis points.”

What he’s saying is that the loan rate is going up from 5.0 percent to 5.15 percent. It’s easy to eyeball where those basis points landed. There’s no trickery here, it’s as simple as it looks.

Let’s say you call again on Wednesday to check rates. He tells you

Wildfire of Hopelessness the trophy for our future?

■ ■ ■ Rubbing salt on injury

Adding salt to injury, public sector employees receive higher wages by as much as three dollars compared to private industry employees. It makes a government job much more attractive where real skills and qualifications are trashed. It isn’t what you know but who you know. So what’s the purpose of the scholarship program?

Private industry employees—whose taxes pay for lots of public sector employees—had to slug and slave it out. They had to earn their dues while drone public sector employees head to coffee shops to join marshland reed scientists liven up the rumor mill. The system punishes the educated and returning scholars while rewarding the useless bunch in the public sector that draw bi-weekly unearned loot.

About the only honest employees are teachers, some police officers, nurses, and doctors. Teachers plan their daily lessons, take on parental roles when kids come into the classroom, ensure proper behavior, and have tons of tolerance to attend even to the slow ones in class.

Doctors and nurses had to work with what’s available 24/7. Some may not have good bedside manners, but they stick to duty and responsibility and know their jobs like the back of their hand. I ought to know for I’ve been to the ER several times. Amazing the work they put in and still go home to their families ready to pitch-in where mom or kids need help.

Definitely, deficit spending would persist. If such is the case, isn’t it good fiscal policy to begin trimming excess baggage to spare private industry and their employees shouldering the cost of paying for wages and salaries of drone public sector employees? Fiscal reality check is imperative!

Do we have proactive government employees ready and willing to help the general public seeking assistance? Or is the answer polite niceties of “Sorry, he’s out on the field...away from his desk...out on a meeting...this is Jose, your call is important to us, leave your name

sistance programs in the NMI could emulate and follow the lead by placing qualified employees in available and suitable jobs in the private and public sectors.

You do not need to create a position for this purpose. What is required is assigning this job responsibility to a competent employee in the human resources department of the mayor’s office. Like the old saying, “Walk the walk, and talk the talk, and all would be in a level playing field.”

When we all come to our senses on this, we can breathe a sign of relief because a successful job placement program is the panacea to placing qualified indigenous people in jobs now being held by nonresident contract workers here in the NMI. This could be done, but let the mayor of Tinian be the leader of the pack on this.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**

Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



that the rate just fell by 2 basis points. What’s the new rate? Well, we take the 5.15 percent rate from Tuesday, and subtract 2 basis points, which puts us at a 5.13 percent rate. Then let’s say on Thursday the rate goes up by 1 basis point; this will put us at 5.14 percent.

Hey, is that all there is to the basis point gig? Yep.

Why does this matter so much? Because the pros who deal with this stuff usually don’t have an endless amount of time to go around and around in circles chasing misconceptions about percentages. You’ll have an easier time “talking turkey” with them if you know what a basis point is.

Furthermore, next year is going to be one heck of a humdinger on the economic front, and if you want to follow the serious press you’ll note the term “basis point” is used all the time.

I’ve seen a lot of problems, some of them quite expensive, that could have been avoided by a basic understanding of basis points.

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



and number.”

If the employee is out on the field, which field are you referring to? Is it an agency inspection, or out at a coffee shop to join the rest of do-nothing gangs perk up the rumor industry? If he is away from his desk, where did he go and must my request for a return call be ignored as a taxpayer? Why the grand sense of insensitivity? Did you forget who is paying for your salaries?

Why is there an answering machine and not real live employees manning calls from the general public? Are you scared of having to work? Is your bi-weekly loot sent via an answering machine too? Where’s your understanding of public service? Is the prevailing dismissive attitude a redefinition of public service? Nothing can be further from the truth!

And I’ll add one more notch to this piece: I will begin visiting offices and coffee shops to see just how many Lord and Queen of Weeds are out on the field. I will publish names of agencies and employees who need rude awakening that their salaries in these bad times came from the backbreaking work product of private industries and their employees. No worries! This is the meanest bastard in the valley.

WILL

From Page 10

to charm, but you cut him short, saying, “I’m sorry, Newt, but I can’t do this.”

He’s disappointed, but you can see in his eyes that he knew it wouldn’t work: We cannot erase the past.

The bar is clearing out now, closing time beckons, and you do what you feared all evening you might. You approach Mitt, who waited patiently, and you say, “Come on, big fella. Let’s get out of here.”

“Great,” he replies. “Just let me say goodbye to my Cousin Jon. He looks so lonely. He was supposed to meet some friends, but they didn’t show.”

Sometimes you don’t find “Mr. Right.” Sometimes, it’s all you can do to avoid “Mr. So Very Wrong.”

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.

Letter to the Editor

Job placement program






After reading what the mayor of Tinian said, that his preference is job referral rather than job fair events, I think the mayor has a cloudy understanding on what is best to do on this. Let the mayor of Tinian know that an effective job placement program would ensure that qualified and deserving applicants could be matched with positions being offered by employers on Tinian. This job placement mandates would include returning scholarship recipients or qualified returning residents who are seeking employment and livelihood on Tinian.

After Tinian launches a successful job placement program, other government offices involved with scholarship or educational as-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼77

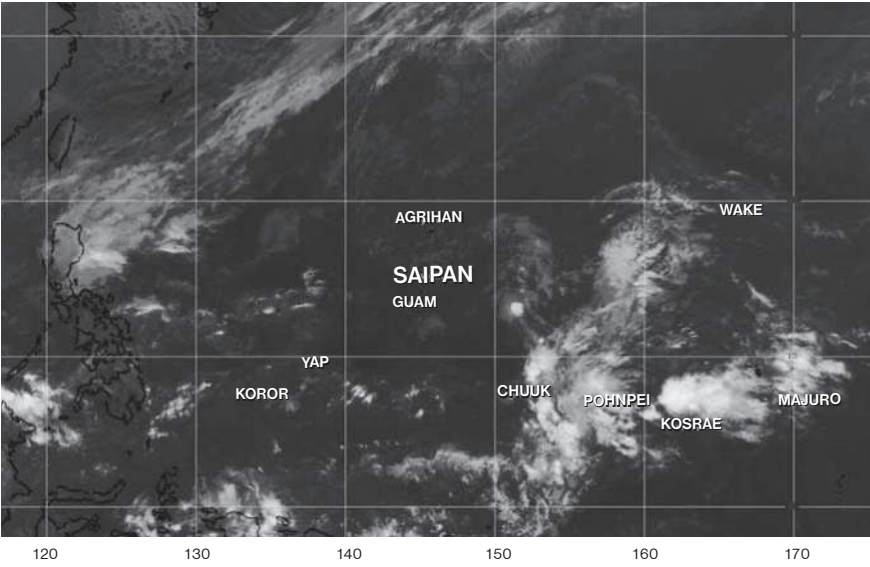
Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲65 ▼60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼27
Hong Kong	Showers	▲74 ▼69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
London	Showers	▲56 ▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66 ▼46
Manila	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲67 ▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼42
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼44
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼42
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼45
Salem	Showers	▲48 ▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼34
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲63 ▼42

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
1:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
6:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N137E to beyond 130E at 20N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A surface trough west of Chuuk extends northeastward from 4N143E to a weak circulation centered at about 10N150E then continues northward to about 19N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between and including Chuuk and Pohnpei between 1N and 12N from 151E to 159E. Scattered showers are also found east of the Marianas between 12N and 19N from 151E to 154E associated with this trough. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 7N159E to 12N164E to 13N170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found around Kwajalein and near Majuro between 5N and 12N from 160E to 172E. An upper-level low is centered west of Wake Island near 17N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 13N and 18N from 157E to 161E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:02 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	7:07 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	8:09 AM	7:45 PM
Monday	9:05 AM	8:45 PM
Tuesday	9:56 AM	9:43 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)
C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)
C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP	C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP
C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6	C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6
C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am 1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am 3, 6 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05076/179 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN	C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

GTA exec VP says they respect process in the Commonwealth

GTA Services LLC, a Guam-based telecommunications company that has been approved to enter and do business in the Commonwealth, said Wednesday that they respect the process in the Commonwealth.

When asked for comments about IT&E's lawsuit against the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, GTA Services executive vice president for external and legal affairs Daniel J. Tydingco said they have been following the process since day one when they applied.

"GTA will continue following and respecting the laws, processes, and procedures of the NMI," Tydingco said in an email.

Tydingco did not elaborate.

Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., owner of IT&E, filed the lawsuit against the commission last Friday in the

Superior Court.

IT&E, through general counsel Steven Carrara and counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, asked the court to allow IT&E to intervene in the commission's proceedings relating to GTE's application to operate in the CNMI.

Carrara and Torres said that IT&E should be allowed to participate in the proceedings to and concerning GTA's application for certificate of public convenience and necessity.

The lawyers asked the court to rule that all documents, pleadings and correspondence in the proceedings be provided to their client.

Carrara and Torres also asked the court to stay the CPUC's Oct. 17, 2011, order that granted GTA its certificate of public convenience and necessity. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



SKILLS TRAINING

Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong, far left, and Workforce Investment Agency case manager Frances Torres, far right, pose with the participants who recently completed the WIA Basic Work Skills Training. CDI, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, or COMPASS, provides a range of affordable and accessible courses geared toward career development.

NMC

Learn how to make Christmas décor

The Inetnon Amot yan Kuttur-an Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making Christmas decorations using pandanus and coconut leaves at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the

CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011. This is a good opportunity for Chamorro and Carolinian teachers to learn additional skills on using pandanus and coconut leaves. The lessons will start at 9:30am and will end around 12pm.

This Saturday's activities at the Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center (in the DCCA office compound) include making

coconut wreath, coconut oil, coconut shell bracelet, and bayogu dolls, and will start at 10:30am.

These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan) and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office (Rota), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278 on Saipan and 286-5562 on Rota. *(PR)*

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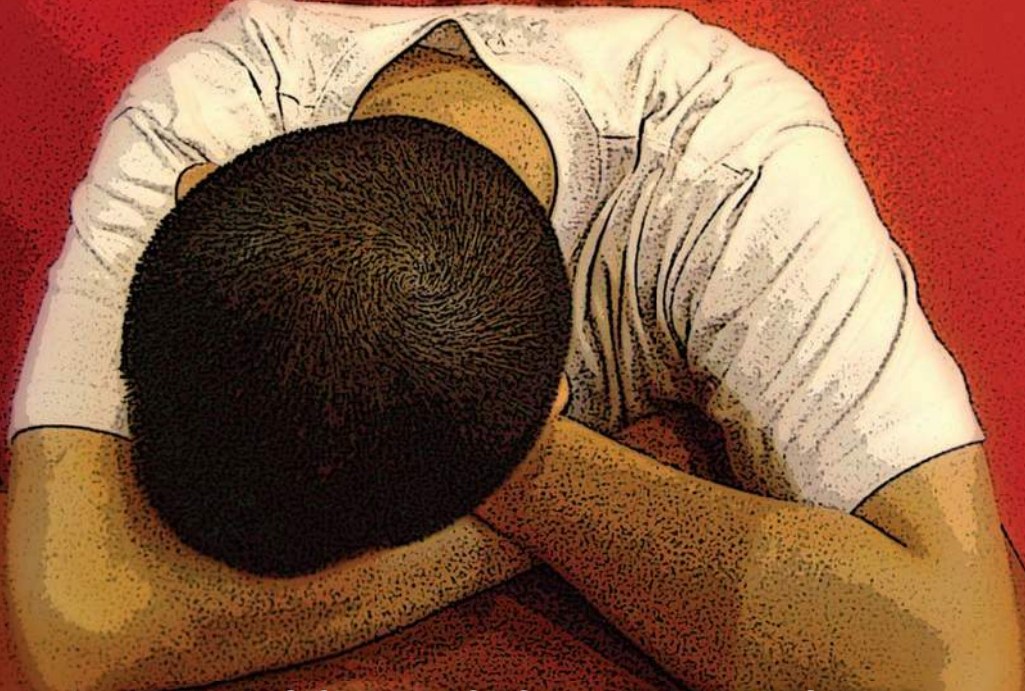
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Judge denies bid to set aside conviction, guilty plea

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja denied Monday a motion to set aside the conviction of a Filipino ex-convict who is now facing possible deportation from the Commonwealth.

Naraja also denied Crisaldo M. Valdez's motion to withdraw his guilty plea.

Valdez, who has been married to a CNMI resident and U.S. citizen for more than 20 years, wants his 2002 conviction for attempted rape be set aside because he said he was never told by his lawyer that if he pleads guilty, he could be deported. He cited the landmark *Padilla v. Kentucky* case, where the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that an attorney provides ineffective assistance if he or she fails to inform a client that a guilty plea carries a risk of deportation.

Naraja pointed out, however, that the rule in the *Padilla* case was announced in 2010, long after Valdez's conviction became final on July 4, 2002. He said *Padilla*'s ruling is a new rule of criminal procedure and will not apply retroactively unless an exception applies.

less an exception applies.

"Because *Padilla* will not apply retroactively in this case, the court need not address whether defendant has shown ineffective assistance of counsel," Naraja said.

According to court records, Valdez was sentenced on June 4, 2002, to six months in prison after he pleaded guilty to attempted rape as part of a plea deal with the government.

In late 2010, the Department of Homeland Security filed a removal case against Valdez, saying he should be removed from the CNMI due to his criminal conviction. It was not immediately clear if the removal case is still pending in Immigration Court.

Valdez then filed motions to withdraw his guilty plea and to set aside his conviction. Valdez said he and his wife, Barbara Fujihiro Ada, had consulted then assistant public defender Jeffrey Moots on a proposed plea agreement that would dispose of his criminal case.

Valdez said that, while Moots explained everything that was in the proposed plea agreement, the lawyer never told him about the effect the plea agreement

will have on his right to continue to live with his wife and child in the CNMI.

He said the lawyer never told him and his wife that, by signing the plea agreement, he could be deported from the CNMI not only by the CNMI government but also by the federal government.

Relying on Moots' explanation, Valdez said his wife persuaded him to accept the plea agreement because a trial would

be difficult for her hypertension.

"My family suffered tremendously when I was incarcerated because I was the only breadwinner in the family," he said.

Valdez's current lawyer, Reynaldo Yana, argued that it is not only legally right to set aside the conviction and allow a withdrawal of the guilty plea; it is also humanitarian.

Assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg argued, however, that allowing Valdez

to back out of an agreement entered nearly nine years ago would prejudice the Commonwealth not only in this case, but in the many other cases where an alien defendant, long ago convicted of a crime, now faces possible deportation and might seek to withdraw a guilty plea.

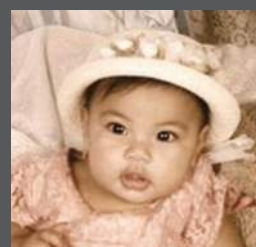
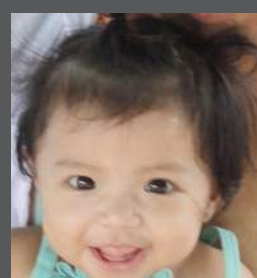
6 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the San Roque School, Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

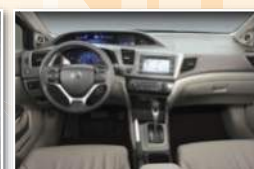
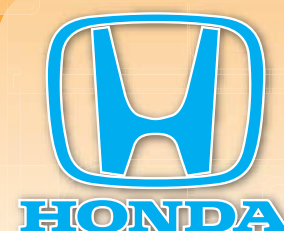
An advance birthday shoutout goes to our sweet Filipino-Spanish-Indian-Chinese daughter, Aira Celia Madelo Avila a.k.a. AC, who will be celebrating her first birthday on Nov. 27, 2011. May you have more birthdays to come. We love you. Papa Jesus loves you. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Lolo Jun, Lolo Adre, Lola Auring, Tito Arvin, and family.



Advanced happy first birthday to my princess, Delnicia Marie Ramon, who will be celebrating her special day on Nov. 27, 2011! God bless you and see you soon! Love, Momma, Papi, and your WA family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Rogue Krom	BW162810	Gray	\$3,000.00	Accord SE	BA140617	White	\$3,000.00
Pathfinder SV	BC600465	Blue	\$4,000.00	Odyssey LX	BB084502	White	\$4,000.00
Xterra S	BC500394	Gray	\$4,000.00				
KIA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Soul Sport	B7313951	White	\$2,000.00	Fiesta S	BM185724	Silver	\$2,000.00
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NMC assists over 400 at Cash for College workshop



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff members from the Northern Marianas College Office of Admissions and Records assist students complete NMC admissions application forms at the recent Cash for College workshop.

The Northern Marianas College assisted over 400 participants at the recently held Cash for College workshop that was intended to assist students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities currently available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

At the workshop, participants received personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the various scholarships and grants including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, the CNMI Scholarship, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship, and the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship. Other scholarships featured at the event were the College Access Challenge Grant scholarship and the

Gates Millennium Scholarship.

In addition, staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records were present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

The approximately 428 workshop participants also received fee waivers for the NMC application and placement tests for the upcoming the Spring 2012 semester.

Many of these participants were students from different high schools, including Marianas, Kagman, and Saipan Southern high schools. Some of the participants also included parents of students and students currently enrolled at NMC.

"We are very pleased to have another great turn out of students attending the Cash for

College workshop," said NMC dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan. "It was very rewarding to see so many students taking advantage of this opportunity to find out what financial aid resources are available and how to apply for them."

For students who missed the recent Cash for College workshop, Pangelinan recommends visiting NMC's Financial Aid Office to get assistance in filling up forms.

The free Cash for College was made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant Program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college. **(PR)**

TO MAINTAIN SUSTAINABLE FISHING LIMITS

Nauru, Tuvalu, Solomons close waters to foreign tuna fleets

As 2011 comes to a close, three parties to the Nauru Agreement countries have taken the bold step of closing their waters to foreign fishing vessels in order to maintain sustainable tuna fishing limits.

The tiny atoll nation of Tuvalu was the latest to announce it was closing its fishery last week, notifying all foreign purse seine fishing vessels they are no longer permitted to fish for tuna in Tuvalu waters.

Tuvalu's closure follows the decision by Nauru a fortnight ago to close their waters after they reached their fishing limits.

In June this year, the Solomon Islands decided to close their fishery.

A key part of the PNA's conservation and management of tuna is limiting the number of days fishing vessels can fish in the PNA's vast 14 million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean—an area which provides around 30 percent

of the world's tuna supply.

The PNA operates a Vessel Day Scheme for foreign purse seine vessels where a total number of days for fishing are set for the PNA area, and then divided between the eight PNA ocean states which can also trade days between them. If a PNA member country uses up their days, they must close the fishery and purchase fishing days from another country so as to keep overall fishing effort in the PNA area

within sustainable limits.

In 2010, PNA committed to have hard limits on fishing, beginning in 2011, which resulted in fishery closures in three PNA members (Tuvalu, Nauru, and Solomon Islands).


Solomon Islands then bought fishing days from the Marshall Islands through bilateral trading. Solomon Islands then sold these days to Korea so only Korean purse seine vessels currently fish in Solomon Islands

waters in 2011.


In 2011, Papua New Guinea too made use of the Vessel Day Scheme by buying fishing days from Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau so PNG can continue to sell fishing days in its waters and keep its fishery open.

"Despite the challenges they have as developing countries, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Solomon Islands have enforced their fishing day limits by closing their waters

to foreign tuna fleets," said PNA director Dr. Transform Aqorau. "They have made a short term sacrifice of revenue in order to make a longer term gain of getting a higher price for their fishing days and to ensure fishing is kept in sustainable limits. We are all very proud of our leaders who have taken these hard decisions to help the PNA reach toward its goal of creating the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery." **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW12-RFP-001

Historic and Building Condition Assessment for the Proposed Construction of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center, Navy Hill Saipan.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Historic and Building Condition Assessment for the Proposed Construction of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center, Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures will be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-305** of the regulations. However, the project is funded under Federal Grant, Article 7 "Local Business Preference is not applicable.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, any company, corporation or partnership "firm" must obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **November 18, 2011** at the DPW Technical Services Division, Capitol Hill, Saipan. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. local time at the Joeten Commercial Bldg, Gualo Rai on December 06, 2011.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Director, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **December 19, 2011.**

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, *cannot* submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and Background of the Company- 50%:** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed project that substantiate a the firms aptitude for projects of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru an employee, joint venture or consultant.
- Organization and Capacity- 35%:** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project Schedule, and
- Response to RFP-15%:** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this RFP.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW12-RFP-001". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **December 22, 2011.** Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **December 22, 2011** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, **December 22, 2011** and must be received no later than **January 03, 2012.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed..

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made, therefore, negotiation shall be conducted with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Financing for the Project is directly under the successful award of NOAA Grant NA10NOS4290155.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

All submitted proposals received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Acting Secretary
Department of Land and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2012. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

- Valid CNMI Business License
- Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
- 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
- 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
- Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
- Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
- Workmen's Compensation Policy
- Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
- A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
- At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
- List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
- Company background
- Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
- Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 1, 2011 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

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\$399+

Fire up the Wi-Fi and get ready for a totally uncompromising web experience, complete with Adobe® Flash® 10.1 and HTML5 support for those rich graphics and videos. Powered by a 1GHz dual-core processor and 1GB RAM, the PlayBook will help you multitask and manage apps on a single screen. Plus, the 3MP HD forward-facing camera, 5MP HD rear-facing camera and 1080p HD video output are sure to take your multimedia capabilities to the next level.



**Samsung
GALAXY Tab 10.1**
\$399+

The Galaxy Tab 10.1 is a complete overhaul compared to the original 7 inch Galaxy Tab. The new 10.1 offers a larger 10.1 inch Hi-res touch screen display, pre-loaded with Android 3.1 Honeycomb OS, and claims to be the thinnest tablet in the world!



**GET A FREE
MiFi® 2200**
with the purchase of any tablet.*

**XPERIA™
PLAY**
\$199+

**INCLUDES 6
PRELOADED
GAMES!**

This gaming phone sports dedicated gaming controls on a slide-out pad, a large screen, and a 2nd-generation Snapdragon processor. Other key features include 5-megapixel camera, front-facing camera, 3.5mm audio jack, mobile Wi-Fi hotspot, full browser with Adobe Flash, memory card slot, DLNA wireless media streaming.



**CASIO G'zOne
COMMANDO™**
\$299+

This Android 2.2 FROYO CDMA smartphone is notable for its rugged, waterproof design. Other key features include compass, thermometer, pedometer, a high-resolution touch display, and extra-loud speaker. Rounding out the features are a 5-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi with mobile hotspot, EVDO 3G data, and memory card slot.



**Samsung
CH@T 322**
Access 2 SIM cards at the same time! Because staying connected is so important — for business and pleasure! That's why this phone comes with access to your favorite social networking sites.
\$109 PREPAID
w/FREE \$10 LOAD



Various Colors
AVAILABLE!



**MOTOROLA
EX119**
This dual SIM GSM Quad-Band phone sports Wi-Fi, touch screen display, and a full QWERTY Keyboard!
\$149 PREPAID
w/FREE \$10 LOAD



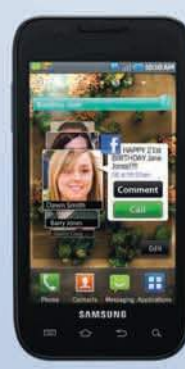
SANYO ZIO™
\$49+ PREPAID
\$199
INCLUDES \$10 LOAD

This Android smartphone is notable for its large, high-resolution display and 3G EVDO data. Other features include 3-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi, accelerometer, 3.5mm headphone jack, and memory card slot.



**htc
EVO™ 3D**
\$299+

This update to the EVO 4G adds 3D screen and camera, including video, plus a faster 3rd-generation dual-core Snapdragon processor. Other features include Android 2.3, HTC's Sense interface, a huge, high-resolution display, and HD video output to TV. Other features include Wi-Fi, memory card slot, and 3.5mm audio jack. The EVO 3D is surely a phone that will blow away the competition!



**Samsung
Showcase**
\$199+

Part of Samsung's Galaxy S series, this high-end Android smartphone sports a huge 4-inch OLED display, fast 1 GHz processor, and 5-megapixel camera with LED flash and video capture. Other features include Bluetooth 3.0, Wi-Fi with DLNA streaming, and a 3.5mm audio jack.



**Samsung
nexus S**
\$299+

The Nexus S 4G is the latest CDMA Android smartphone available from Samsung! The Nexus S 4G comes fully loaded with Android 2.3 Gingerbread OS and a 1GHz Processor for an overall quick smartphone experience. The Nexus S 4G also sports a rear front-facing camera.



BLU DEEJAY
This dual SIM GSM Quad-Band is small compact bar style phone that is all about MUSIC. This stylish phone features Stereo FM Radio, MP3 player and ringtones so you can listen to your favorite music on the go.
\$29 PREPAID
w/FREE \$10 LOAD



BLU CLICK T310
Who said practical has to be boring? This dual sim mobile phone provides a CIF camera, FM radio, MP3 player, loudspeaker and MP3 ringtones.
\$39 PREPAID
w/FREE \$10 LOAD



BLU DEEJAY II
BLU DEEJAY II dual sim is a basic GSM phone with QWERTY keyboard. It has a 1.8" TFT display, VGA camera, bluetooth, microUSB port and supports up to 4GB microSD memory cards.
\$59 PREPAID
w/FREE \$10 LOAD

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† Requires MiFi service on a 24-month term. ‡ Requires Android 500 Plan on a 24-month term.



Life in Motion



TRASH WARRIORS

Shirley's Coffee Shop employees and their families took part in a beach cleanup last week at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

Northern Marianas College Proa Music Society club members, from right, Roxy Sanchez, Lena Wabol, and Darryl Brana, along with Office of Student Activities and Leadership acting program manager L.J. Castro, present college president Sharon Y. Hart with donated items collected for the 4th Annual Operation CNMI Homefront Support. Student members of NMC's music club had decorated drop boxes for community members to place donated items to include in care packages that will be sent this month to individuals from the CNMI currently serving in the military.

NMC



Two Freedom Air employees allegedly stole ticket sales

Police arrested Tuesday night one of two employees of Freedom Air who allegedly stole the company's ticket sales.

Rellanita A. Villagomez, 51, was served with an arrest warrant at 8pm in Dandan for theft.

An arrest warrant was also issued against Helen Dayawon Camacho, 51, for the same charge. Camacho reportedly left for the Philippines on Aug. 12, 2011, with no actual return date.

The police report did not mention how much money was stolen.

Villagomez's bail was set at \$250 cash and \$2,250 unsecured bond.

Detective Kevin R. Maratita stated in his report that a detective had responded to a theft complaint at Freedom Air aviation services at the cargo area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Aug. 23, 2011.

Maratita said the detective had learned from the Freedom Air station manager that an employee had discovered discrepancies in some of the passenger manifests, with several manifests not showing the tickets assigned to them. It was also found that some tickets that customers had purchased had been voided.

Maratita said that Camacho had admitted to the air station manager that she had taken the tickets that were sold to customers but did not log them on the manifest. Camacho then later allegedly voided the tickets and took the money.

Camacho further allegedly admitted to the station manager that she got the tickets from Villagomez.

When the incident was reported to the police, Villagomez was off-island. Camacho also left the CNMI on Aug. 12.

Maratita said he later learned that Villagomez had returned a month ago but had not reported back to work.

Maratita said Villagomez was the person in charge of all incoming Freedom Air tickets from the Saipan station and agency tickets for Saipan.

The detective said an internal audit showed that passenger manifests were found inside Villagomez's desk where some of the agency tickets were stamped with the Freedom Air stamp instead of the travel agency stamp.

Maratita said the manifest revealed that those same ticket numbers were logged as missing from the Saipan station ticket inventory sheet and that the tickets were issued by Camacho. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 2011-CDA-07-RFP LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds for the amount of \$13,168,350 for Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to \$5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular and a Turn Over meeting on November 29, (Tuesday) at 5:30pm, Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Quorum
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Adoption of Minutes:
 - a. October 25, 2011
 - b. November 8, 2011
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Communications**
 1. From the State Board of Education
 2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports**
 1. Managers
 2. Director
 3. Human Resource Officer
 4. Finance Director
 5. Center Representatives
- V. Old Business**
 1. Tabled Items:
 - a. Review and Appointments of Council Standing Committees
 - a1. Personnel
 - a2. Education
 - a3. Executive
 - a4. Finance
 - a5. Public Relations
- VI. New Business**
 1. SY 2011-2012 Self Assessment
 2. SY 2011-2012 Community Assessment
 3. SY 2011-2012 Health Symposium
 4. PRAXIS Exam Preparation Sessions
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VIII. Executive Session¹**
- IX. Next Meeting**
- X. Adjournment**

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Jolene Torres at 323-7446; several days notice is required.

/s/ **Vinnie Sablan**
Chairperson

¹Pursuant to 1CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,]	Civil Action
Plaintiff,]	No. 11-0169 CV
]	
v.]	AMENDED
]	SUMMONS
FRANKLIN]	
JOEL R. CRUZ]	
Defendant.]	

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT,
FRANKLIN JOEL R. CRUZ:**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Imlwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 8th of September, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Business

Thanksgiving travel rush is under way across US

CHICAGO (AP)—Undeterred by costlier gas and airfare, millions of Americans set out Wednesday to see friends and family in what is expected to be the nation's busiest Thanksgiving weekend since the financial meltdown more than three years ago.

Many people economized rather than stay home.

"We wouldn't think of missing it," said Bill Curtis, a retiree from Los Angeles who was with his wife at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif. "Family is important and we love the holiday. So we cut corners other places so we can afford to travel."

About 42.5 million people are expected to hit the road or

take to the skies for Thanksgiving this year, according to travel tracker AAA. That's the highest number since the start of the recession at the end of 2007.

Heavy rain slowed down early travelers along the East Coast. Snow across parts of New England and upstate New York made for treacherous driving and thousands of pow-

er outages. And a mudslide covered train tracks in the Pacific Northwest. But most of the country is expected to have clear weather Thursday.

As afternoon traffic picked up, flight delays were reported in Boston, San Francisco, Newark, N.J., and New York.

The average round-trip airfare for the top 40 U.S. routes is \$212, up 20 percent from last year. Tickets on most Amtrak one-way routes have climbed slightly, and drivers are paying an average \$3.33 a gallon, or 16

percent more than last year, according to AAA.

Jake Pagel, a waiter from Denver, was flying to see his girlfriend's family in San Jose, Calif. He said he had to give up working during one of the restaurant industry's busiest and most profitable times.

"I think it's something you can't quantify in terms of monetary cost," he said. "I mean, being able to spend quality time with your family is fairly significant."

Most travelers—about 90

percent, according to AAA—are expected to hit the road. John Mahoney acknowledged the economy has changed the way he travels, which is why he and his girlfriend slept in their car instead of getting a motel room when a heavy, wet snowstorm flared up along the New York State Thruway during their 20-hour drive from New Hampshire to St. Louis.

"Americans will still do what Americans do. We travel the roads," he said.

Spreading Europe stress sends stock market lower

By **MATTHEW CRAFT and DANIEL WAGNER**
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Fear that Europe's debt crisis is infecting Germany, the strongest economy in the region, sent stocks reeling Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 236 points, leaving it down 4.6 percent over the past three days. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell for the sixth day in a row, its worst losing streak since August.

Traders were spooked by the poor results at an auction of German debt, which drew too few bids to sell all of the 10-year notes being offered. Germany has Europe's strongest economy, and traders have bought its debt as a safe place to store value during turbulent times.

The weak buying suggests that Europe's crisis might be infecting strong nations that are crucial to keeping the euro currency afloat. Germany bears much of the burden of bailing out weaker neighbors such as Greece and Portugal.

Borrowing costs for Italy and Spain rose from levels that already were considered dangerously high. Europe lacks the resources to bail out those countries, which have its third- and fourth-biggest economies.

The Dow fell 236.17 points, or 2.1 percent, to close at 11,257.55. It has slumped this week as Congress neared a deadlock on cutting the budget deficit and as Europe's debt woes appeared to worsen. The Dow has now given back more than half of its big October

rally. It jumped 9.5 percent last month, the biggest gain since 2002.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 26.25, or 2.2 percent, to 1,161.79. All 10 industry groups fell sharply, led by energy companies, materials makers and banks. The index is headed for its sixth straight decline, the longest losing streak since August.

The Nasdaq fell 61.20, or 2.4 percent, to 2,460.08.

The dollar rose sharply against the euro as investors moved money into assets considered to be relatively safe. The euro fell near \$1.33, from \$1.35 late Tuesday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.89 percent from 1.94 percent late Tuesday, signaling higher demand for Treasuries.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Big stakes as Black Friday, shopping season arrive

NEW YORK (AP)—Retailers awaiting the arrival of Black Friday are on the edge. How well they do during the biggest shopping season of the year will have lasting consequences not just on them, but the still-fragile economic recovery. This weekend, many stores will for the first time use midnight openings along with the usual bevy of deals as they try to lure consumers, whose appetite for good-buys has been increasing since the Great Recession. Economists and business executives

will be watching closely. "A bad holiday season would raise recession fears again, whereas a strong one would start to dispel those fears," said Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics for Moody's Analytics. That would give companies more impetus to step up hiring, he added.

Medicare chief steps aside in political impasse

WASHINGTON (AP)—The point man for carrying out President Barack Obama's health care law will be stepping down after Republicans succeeded in

blocking his confirmation by the Senate, the White House announced Wednesday. Medicare chief Don Berwick, a Harvard professor widely respected for his ideas on how to improve the health care system, became the most prominent casualty of the political wars over a health care overhaul whose constitutionality will be now decided by the Supreme Court. Praising Berwick for "outstanding work," White House deputy press secretary Jamie Smith criticized Republicans for "putting political interests above the best interests of the American people."



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Mika Muna via email at mika.muna@cucgov.org; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at venu@cucgov.net and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at ed.char@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Nation

Obama pardons pair of gobblers for Thanksgiving

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a wave of his hand, President Barack Obama on Wednesday gave two plump turkeys a Thanksgiving reprieve, noting that without his intervention, “they’d end up next to the mashed potatoes and stuffing.”

The official national Thanksgiving turkey is a 19-week-old, 45-pound bird named Liberty. Its alternate, also spared, is a turkey of the same age and size named Peace.

Liberty sat calmly as

Obama, accompanied by daughters Sasha and Malia, offered a blessing, his hand over the turkey’s head. Obama said Liberty had the distinction of being “the luckiest bird on the face of the earth.”

“Right now, he’s also probably one of the most confused,” Obama said.

Obama jokingly cast his pardon as yet another of his “We Can’t Wait” initiatives. “Recently, I’ve been taking a series of executive actions that don’t

require congressional approval,” the president said. “Well, here’s another one. We can’t wait to pardon these turkeys.”

In a more sober tone, Obama called on Americans to remember the meaning of Thanksgiving and to be mindful of those who have less.

“Let’s think about those who can’t spend the holiday with their loved ones, especially the members of our military serving overseas,” he said. “I’d like to thank all our men and women in uniform, and their families, for their incredible service and devotion.”

Later Wednesday, the president, his daughters, first lady Michelle Obama, her mother, Marian Robinson, and her nephew Avery Robinson delivered two not-so-lucky birds to the Capital Area Food Bank, a local food pantry where the first family was packing and

distributing food bags for people in need.

The president doled out packets of baby carrots as he exchanged “Happy Thanksgiving” greetings and small talk with patrons. Sasha, at Obama’s side, handed out small boxes of White House M&Ms.

Supercommittee failure complicates election year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The failure of Congress’ deficit-reduction supercommittee adds a new dimension to the 2012 political contests, drawing political battle lines around broad tax increases and massive spending cuts that now are scheduled to begin automatically in 2013.

President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger will be forced to debate alternatives for reducing deficits, made all the more urgent by


the looming consequences of congressional inaction. The dividing lines already are sharply drawn, with Obama supporting deficit reduction that includes a mix of spending cuts and tax increases on the wealthy, while Republicans have declared themselves averse to tax hikes.

An election that has been shaping up as a referendum on Obama’s stewardship of the economy now will require the


candidates to offer competing forward-looking deficit-reduction plans to avoid cuts and tax hikes that neither side wants to see materialize.


For Obama, that is a more favorable place to be, drawing contrasts with his opponent and arguing for higher taxes on the rich rather than defending his oversight of an economy that could still be suffering from high unemployment and slow growth next November.

Beginning in 2013, the federal government faces two oncoming trains. When the supercommittee was unable to find agreement by Wednesday, it triggered spending cuts of \$1.2 trillion starting in January 2013 and extending over 10 years. Half of the cuts would come from defense spending, the other from education, agriculture and environmental programs, and, to a lesser extent, Medicare.




NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp





**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**



GUADALUPE O. BORJA ("Trustor"), on or about October 16, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1984 under Document No. 84-2185 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 017 D 35, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 4842, on the 11th day of September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 29, 2011**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$24,060.10**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$24,060.10** shall also apply.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Dated this 25th day of October, 2011.

By: /S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director




NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp





**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**



JUAN F. BARCINAS and BARBARA D.LC. EVANGELISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 14, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 16, 1983, under Document No. 17490 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 T 52, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 T 00, DATED AUGUST 14, 1969, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,486 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 29, 2011**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$72,955.75**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$72,955.75** shall also apply.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Dated this 25th day of October, 2011.

By: /S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director




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**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**



LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 204/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 29, 2011**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$47,366.74**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$47,366.74** shall also apply.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Dated this 25th day of October, 2011.

By: /S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director




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**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**



MARIA A. TEREGEYO ("Trustor"), on or about June 6, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 6, 1984 under Document No. 84-881 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 494, containing an area of 745 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 208/4/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 29, 2011**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$33,640.48**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 28, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 28, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$33,640.48** shall also apply.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 25th day of October, 2011.

By: /S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Asia

Slow trial frustrates Philippine massacre kin

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two years after a political massacre in the southern Philippines became the single worst slaying of journalists in the world, more than half of the nearly 200 suspects remain at large.

Leaders of a politically powerful clan and several of their lieutenants have been put on trial over the attack—an ambush of a convoy and the slayings of at least 57 political opponents and media employees who accompanied them. But the proceedings have moved at a snail's pace, frustrating relatives of the victims.

"We know that it is not easy to get justice. We need to work for it, it is not voluntarily offered or easily obtained," said Grace Morales, widow of journalist Rosell Morales and sister of another reporter slain in the massacre, Marites Cablitias.

"The families need to act, to remain strong and to continue the fight," she said in an interview. "It has been two years but we have not yet obtained full justice."

The focus of the trial is Andal Ampatuan Sr., patriarch of the powerful clan in southern Maguindanao province, former governor of an autonomous Muslim region and a political ally of ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Victims' relatives blame Arroyo for a culture of impunity in the southern Philippines and have filed a lawsuit against her, claiming she could have prevented the killings, although she has condemned the massacre and denied any prior knowledge.

However, Arroyo was arrested just last week on charges of electoral fraud for allegedly instructing Am-



A handcuffed suspect in the massacre of 57 people, including 32 journalists and staff, in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines, tries to shield his face from the media as he enters the court for the resumption of their trial at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines on the 2nd anniversary of the massacre Wednesday Nov. 23, 2011.

patuan and an elections official to rig the results of 2007 congressional polls. She denies any wrongdoing.

Ampatuan is among 96 suspects in custody being tried on murder charges, including his sons, other relatives and former government-armed militiamen under his wing. They have pleaded not guilty.

Still at large are an additional 100 suspects, including former police, military personnel and civilian militia members linked to the Ampatuans, believed to be hiding in Maguindanao and elsewhere in the restive southern Philippines.

Gunmen allegedly led by Andal Ampatuan Jr., a former town mayor, stopped members of the Mangudadatu clan, the Ampatuans' political rivals, as they traveled to file for candidacy in regional elections. They were led to a hilltop clearing, gunned down and hastily buried in mass graves along-

side their vehicles, which were crushed by a backhoe.

"This case underscores what happens when people have full control and absolute power and then abuse it," Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo said during a ceremony Wednesday at the massacre site. "They were so brazen and thought nothing could stop them."

The dead included at least 31 media staffers covering the Mangudadatus, making it the worst-ever single massacre of journalists. The charge sheet lists 57 victims but the body of journalist Reynaldo Momay, who was also part of the convoy, was never found.

Still-mourning relatives led by Maguindanao Gov. Esmel Mangudadatu, who lost his wife and sisters in the massacre, lit candles, offered flowers and released doves during the ceremony at the mound where concrete markers bearing the names of dead were erected.

of pest control for landowners looking to protect their crops, police said Wednesday. The suspects said they chased down the primates with dogs, then shot, stabbed or hacked them to death with machetes, said Col. Antonius Wisnu Sutirta, a police spokesman. The men allegedly told authorities the owners of several palm oil plantations on Borneo island offered \$100 for every orangutan killed and \$20 for every long-nosed proboscis monkey.

Man sentenced to 20 years for insulting Thai queen

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai criminal court sentenced a 61-year-old man to 20 years in prison Wednesday for sending text messages deemed offensive to the country's queen. The court found Amphon Tangnopaku guilty on four counts under lese majeste and computer crime laws, sentencing him to

five years imprisonment for each charge, to be served consecutively. Lese majeste is the crime of insulting a monarch, and Thailand's laws against it are the most severe in the world. Even repeating the details of an alleged offense is illegal.

Magnitude-5.9 quake hits near Japan nuclear site

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake struck Thursday morning near the Japan nuclear power plant hit by a powerful tsunami earlier this year. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-5.9 quake struck shortly before 4:30 a.m. local time. It hit 62 miles (101 kilometers) east of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. The quake struck at a depth of 23 miles (37 kilometers). The quake struck 151 miles (244 kilometers) north-east of Tokyo.

World

Yemen president of 33 years to quit

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's autocratic leader agreed Wednesday to step down after months of demonstrations against his 33-year rule, pleasing the U.S. and its Gulf allies who feared that collapsing security in the impoverished nation was allowing an active al-Qaida franchise to step up operations.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is the fourth leader to lose power in the wave of Arab Spring uprisings this year, following longtime dictators in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

But the deal ushering Saleh from power grants him immunity from prosecution and doesn't explicitly ban him from the country's political life—raising doubts that it will address Ye-

men's many problems.

The deal opens the way to what will likely be a messy power struggle. Among those possibly vying for power are Saleh's son and nephew, who command the country's best-equipped military units; powerful tribal leaders; and the commander of a renegade battalion.

Saleh had stubbornly clung to power despite nearly 10 months of huge street protests in which hundreds of people were killed by his security forces. At one point, Saleh's palace mosque was bombed and he was treated in Saudi Arabia for severe burns. When he finally signed the agreement to step down, he did so in the Saudi capital of Riyadh after

most of his allies had abandoned him and joined the opposition.

Seated beside Saudi King Abdullah and dressed smartly in a dark business suit with a matching striped tie and handkerchief, Saleh smiled as he signed the U.S.-backed deal hammered out by his powerful Gulf Arab neighbors to transfer power within 30 days to his vice president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. He then clapped his hands a few times.

"The signature is not what is important," Saleh said after signing the agreement. "What is important is good intentions and dedication to serious, loyal work at true participation to rebuild what has been destroyed by the crisis during the last 10 months."

Italians want to cut debt but without sacrifices

ROME (AP)—Few Italians are willing to make personal sacrifices—like retiring at age 67 instead of 65, or even earlier—though they believe cutting the country's public debt is a top priority, according to an AP-GfK poll released Tuesday.

And most Italians think the country should stay in the 17-nation eurozone even though the European Union is demanding such tough economic reforms.

A full 93 percent of Italians said reducing the public debt was either an "extremely" or "very important" goal for the government to tackle. Only 2 percent said it was "not too important" or "not at all important."

Yet, only about a quarter of Italians favor reforming labor laws to make it easier to fire workers, or raising the retirement age—considered critical to curb Italy's public spending

and boost economic growth.

Italy has been engulfed in financial turmoil for weeks as markets woke up to the enormous size of its debt—€1.9 trillion (\$2.6 trillion), a eurozone high at 120 percent of gross domestic product. The market turmoil and a loss of confidence in Italy's ability to repay its debt forced Premier Silvio Berlusconi to resign Nov. 12, ending his 17-year domination of Italian politics.

The AP-GfK poll was conducted last week during the first days of economist Mario Monti's new government, made up of bankers, academics and corporate executives instead of politicians. Monti is under enormous pressure to quickly rein in the debt and get the economy growing again.

Italy's economy is hampered by high labor costs, low productivity, fat government payrolls, excessive taxes, choking

bureaucracy and low numbers of college graduates. Yet as the third-largest economy in the eurozone, Italy is too big for Europe to bail out like it did Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

Monti got high marks from the Italians surveyed, with 67 percent saying they viewed him favorably. Only 10 percent had a negative view and 16 percent were neutral.

"Let's say there's hope," said Fortunato Porcheddu, 63, as he strolled Tuesday with a friend through a piazza in Rome. "If I close my eyes and look back over the past 15 years and everything that has happened, I cringe."

Monti has pledged to reform Italy's pension system, re-impose a property tax annulled by Berlusconi's government, fight tax evasion, streamline civil court proceedings, get more women and young people into the work force and cut political costs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nurse now faces 8 murder charges in Sydney fire

SYDNEY (AP)—The nurse accused of starting a deadly fire at a Sydney nursing home now faces eight counts of murder. The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reports that prosecutors on Thursday added four more murder counts against Roger Dean, who worked at the Quakers Hill Nursing Home. Four elderly residents of the home died the day of the Nov. 18 blaze, and five more have died in local hospitals since. Police are still trying to determine what caused the death of one of the elderly residents.

Indonesia police arrest 2 in orangutan killings

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Two Indonesian plantation workers said they killed at least 20 endangered orangutans and proboscis monkeys as a means

Medvedev: Russia may target US missile shield

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia threatened on Wednesday to deploy missiles to target the U.S. missile shield in Europe if Washington fails to assuage Moscow's concerns about its plans, a harsh warning that reflected deep cracks in U.S.-Russian ties despite President Barack Obama's efforts to "reset" relations with the Kremlin.

President Dmitry Medvedev said he still hopes for a deal with the U.S. on missile defense, but he strongly accused Washington and its NATO allies of ignoring Russia's worries. He said Russia will have to take military countermeasures if the U.S. continues to build the shield without legal guarantees that it will not be aimed against Russia.

The U.S. has repeatedly assured Russia that its proposed missile defense system wouldn't be directed against Russia's nuclear forces, and it did that again Wednesday.

FIRST (1ST) YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of,

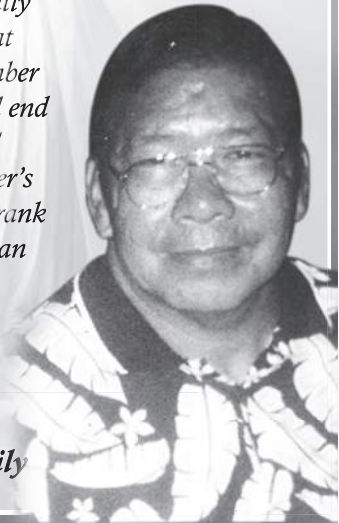
Antonio Cruz Atalig

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass is being offered every morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church. Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm beginning November 18, 2011 (Friday) and will end on November 26, 2011 (Saturday) at his daughter's residence, Marylou and Frank Sablan (Pacho), in Chalan Kanoa, Dist # 2.

Please Join us in Prayers

The Children & Family



Off the Wall

Man arrested over \$1 million suitcase left in an Aussie café

SYDNEY (AP)—Police in Sydney may be close to unraveling the mystery of a man who left a lot of dough at an upscale pizzeria and café—nearly 1 million Australian dollars (\$1 million).

Police say a man wearing shorts and a tank top left a suitcase at Cafe Marco on Tuesday morning. Staff at first thought it might contain a bomb but it turned out to be stuffed with 50-dollar notes.

Officers arrested a man in connection with the incident Tuesday afternoon, said Senior Constable Chris Nash, a New South Wales police spokesman.

Nash said the man then suffered an unknown medical problem and was taken to a local hospital where he remained under police guard Wednesday.

Nash said detectives probably will have to wait until the man recovers before asking him more questions about the cash. Police wouldn't say whether they think the arrested man is the one who left the case in the café.

A worker at the café said Wednesday that the man who left the case was "a bit nervous. He was really nervous."

"It's crazy, it's scary. Now we

can laugh about it, but yesterday I was scared. I called the police," she said. She ended a telephone call to serve a customer before a reporter could ask her name, and a subsequent phone message left at the café was not immediately returned.

Nash said that if the money legitimately belongs to the man it would be returned to him. If the cash is proceeds from a crime it will likely be forfeited to the government. If the owner of the cash is not found, whoever discovered it could make a claim on it after three months.

Dog that survived gassing finds new home in NJ

NUTLEY, N.J. (AP)—The dog that survived an Alabama dog pound's gas chamber has found a permanent home in New Jersey.

Daniel, a beagle mix named by animal control workers in Alabama after the biblical figure who survived the lion's den, joined four other rescued dogs last Thursday at the home of Joe Dwyer and his family in Nutley, about 10 miles west of New York City.

"He's in extremely good shape, especially in light of what he went through," Dwyer said Wednesday after returning from a trip to the veterinarian. "His attitude is just incredible."

Daniel surprised workers at the Animal Control facility in Florence, Ala., on Oct. 3, the day he



Joe Dwyer, of Nutley, N.J., plays with his new dog Daniel, also known as the Miracle Dog, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011 in Nutley.

was supposed to be put down with several other animals in a stainless-steel box roughly the size of a pickup truck bed that

was filled with carbon monoxide.

The dog emerged frightened but unscathed, and was eventually flown to New Jersey by Eleventh Hour Rescue, a nonprofit that saves dogs slated for euthanasia.

The organization received more than 100 requests to adopt Daniel, its president said last month. Dwyer said he and his family had two "meet-and-greets" with Daniel before being approved for adoption.

Dwyer said Daniel has become fast friends with the Nutley family's other four pooches—two dachshunds, a beagle mix and a pit bull mix.

"By Thursday evening they were all lying down together," he said. "It was wonderful to see."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Typo leads to wrong candidate's election in Conn.

DERBY, Conn. (AP)—A typo has led to the election of the wrong man to a finance board in Derby, Conn. James J. Butler was the highest vote-getter, winning 1,526 votes for the 10-member Board of Apportionment and Taxation, which monitors the town's finances. However, his father, 72-year-old James R. Butler, was the candidate nominated by Democrats. The News Times of Danbury and New Haven Register report that he said he wants the job and that his son is not interested in public office. James J. Butler, who is 46, would not comment on whether he wants the job. But he calls city officials incompetent for confusing him with his father. Av Harris, spokesman for the secretary of the state's office, says James J. Butler should be sworn in because he was elected.

Students no longer need to give professor snacks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A California university professor can no longer demand snacks from students taking his psychology classes. Sacramento

State professor George Parrott has demanded snacks from his students for 39 years. Students were told of the snack demand on the first day of class. But two weeks ago he walked out of his Psychology 101 lab class because there were no snacks. University spokeswoman Kimberly Nava says members of the psychology department at California State University, Sacramento decided Parrott's decision to walk out of class was unacceptable and the dean told him to stop. The Sacramento Bee reports Parrott's requirement was his way of encouraging students to work collectively, among other things.

Case dropped against Ohio man seen with rubber ax

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Ohio prosecutors have dropped an inducing panic charge against a man who carried a rubber prop ax into a bar before Halloween. Akron City Prosecutor Doug Powley says he reviewed the case against 42-year-old Bill Morrison and determined that, in his words, the "situation did not warrant a criminal conviction." The Akron Beacon Journal reports paperwork dismissing the case was filed Monday.

Morrison was arrested Oct. 16 and spent a night in jail after a woman saw him with the ax under his coat and called 911. The ax had red paint on it to simulate blood. Morrison has been a Hollywood makeup artist and has worked on Halloween haunted house attractions. He told police he was taking the costume ax to sell to a friend.

Cops: Woman tried to smuggle drugs in hollow Bible

LANCASTER, S.C. (AP)—Deputies in South Carolina say a woman used two hollowed-out Bibles to try to smuggle weapons, drugs and a cell phone to a prison inmate. Sheriff Barry Faile said Monday authorities began investigating 28-year-old Shareca Latoya Jones earlier this month after a package mailed to Lieber Correctional Institution was returned to a post office in Lancaster. Inside the package were two Bibles containing razor knives, a cell phone, ecstasy pills and more than 28 grams of cocaine. Deputies identified Jones as the person who mailed the package from a Kershaw post office. In her car, authorities found a loaded handgun, drugs, cell phones and cash.

Science & Technology

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The tablet goes mainstream

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—'Tis the season of the tablet. Despite the gloomy economy, shoppers are expected to shell out for tablet computers this December, making them about as popular as candy canes and twinkling lights.

The glossy-screened gadgets are the most-desired electronic devices this holiday season. And, of all the gifts people are craving, tablets are second only to clothing, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. The industry group expects U.S. consumers to spend an average of \$246 on electronic gifts, including tablets.

With help from his three siblings, Bob Cardina, 26, plans to purchase an iPad for his parents for Christmas. Cardina and his sister live in Washington. His parents live in Tampa, Florida. So he's excited to be able to video chat with his parents—they on the new iPad, him on his iPhone. He thinks his mother will be especially happy with the gift. One of her friends has an iPad and she's "definitely taken a liking to it," he said.

To be sure, tablets were on some wish lists last year, but they were mostly prized by gadget geeks. In the past year, they have become more mainstream. Consumers have become comfortable using touch screens, especially as smartphones continue to proliferate. Tablets are popping up in unexpected places, too. Apple Inc.'s iPad in particular is being used as a learning tool in schools, a digital cash register in shops and a menu at restaurants.

In 2010, people were "trying to figure out what the whole tablet thing was about," says Gartner analyst Carolina Milanesi. "Now, people know what to do with a tablet."

For some people, the device has become indispensable for playing and working. While you can surf the Web, send emails and watch movies on a laptop or smartphone, consumers are gravitating to tablets because they can be more convenient.

The iPad is still expected to far outsell other tablets this year. According to Gartner Inc., nearly 64 million tablets will be sold worldwide by the end of the year. Some 73 percent of them will be iPads. By Gartner's estimate, Apple will sell 47 million iPads this year—a figure it could certainly achieve, given that it sold 25 million of them by the end of September.

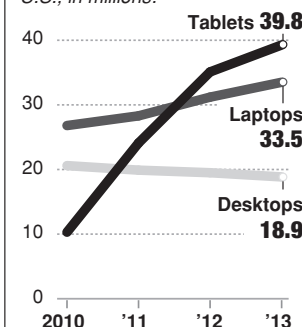
But while many think of the iPad as synonymous with



In this March 9, 2011 file photo, an Associated Press reporter demonstrates the camera on the Apple iPad 2 in San Francisco.

In demand

Projected sales of tablets, desktops and laptops in the U.S., in millions:



NOTE: Data reflect end-of-year totals; 2011-13 figures are projected.
© 2011 MCT
Source: Forrester Research
Graphic: Lorraine Wang, Los Angeles Times

the word "tablet," plenty of shoppers will be looking for a more affordable tablet to give this year.

Two of the most promising competitors come from online retailer Amazon.com Inc. and book seller Barnes & Noble Inc. The companies, major players in the e-reader market, recently released tablets of their own that undercut the iPad's \$499 base price: Amazon's Kindle Fire, which costs \$199, and Barnes & Noble's Nook Tablet, which costs \$249. The Fire, which uses a heavily modified version of Google Inc.'s Android tablet software, is expected to be particularly popular with gift givers in part because of its low price.

"When you get below \$200, sales go up dramatically," says technology analyst Rob Enderle.

Enderle thinks the Fire will be a popular gift, especially for kids. To him, it seems sturdier

than the iPad with a display built from scratch- and crack-resistant Gorilla Glass, and it's cheap enough that parents won't be upset if a child manages to break it.

Tom Mainelli, an analyst at research group IDC, expects the Fire and Nook Tablet to take the second- and third-place spots, respectively, behind the iPad during the last three months of the year.

Rather than hurting Apple, he believes the success of newer tablets will help grow the entire tablet market.

"I don't think Apple loses just because Amazon wins," he says.

One of these Kindle Fire buyers is 24-year-old Ximena Beltran Quan Kiu, who purchased the device for her mother as a Christmas gift. Beltran Quan Kiu says her mom bought a Samsung Galaxy Tab for herself about a month ago, but didn't like it and returned it. She's hoping her mom warms up to the Fire, though, which she can use for reading, surfing the Web and watching movies.

To help make sure her mom likes it, Beltran Quan Kiu is also giving a year's membership to Amazon's express shipping program, Amazon Prime, which includes free streaming of more than 10,000 movies and TV shows and the ability to borrow certain books from Amazon's Kindle Owners' Lending Library.

"It might not be the iPad, but it can hold its own against the iPad," she says.

Life & Style

Bachmann: Fallon song choice shows sexism, bias

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—GOP presidential candidate Michele Bachmann lashed out Wednesday at NBC for not apologizing or taking immediate disciplinary action for an off-color song played during her appearance on Jimmy Fallon's "Late Night."

In her first comments on the flap, Bachmann said on the Fox News Channel that the Fallon show band displayed sexism and bias by playing a snippet of a 1985 Fishbone song as she walked onstage for Tuesday's show. The title of the song is "Lyn' Ass B----."

"This is clearly a form of bias

on the part of the Hollywood entertainment elite," Bachmann said. She added, "This wouldn't be tolerated if this was Michelle Obama. It shouldn't be tolerated if it's a conservative woman either."

She went further on a national radio conservative radio show hosted by Michael Medved, calling the incident "inappropriate, outrageous and disrespectful."

Fallon has tweeted an apology to Bachmann, saying he was "so sorry about the intro mess."



Bachmann

Bachmann told Minnesota Public Radio News that Fallon called her on Wednesday to further apologize. She said the comedian told her he was unaware that his show's band planned to play the song.

On Fox, Bachmann expressed surprise that she's heard nothing from the TV network. She suggested that discipline for the show's Roots band was in order. She said she believed Fallon's comments to be sincere.

One of Bachmann's congressional colleagues, New York Democrat Nita Lowey, had called on NBC to apologize for its "insulting and inappropriate" treatment of its guest.

An NBC spokeswoman didn't immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press.

The Roots' bandleader, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, has said the song was a "tongue-in-cheek and spur-of-the-moment decision."

Bachmann, who is lagging in presidential polls, has spent the week promoting her new autobiography in national television interviews.

Prosecutors seek 4-year sentence for Jackson doc

'Idol' producer: No major changes for new season

NEW YORK (AP)—"American Idol" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe says don't expect any major changes when the hit Fox TV show returns in January after undergoing an extensive makeover last season.

Lythgoe, who helped transform Britain's "Pop Idol" into the American TV juggernaut in 2002, returned as executive producer last season to usher in the post-Simon Cowell era. That ended a two-year hiatus that allowed him to focus on "So You Think You Can Dance," which he produces and helps judge.

For the 10th "American Idol" season, Lythgoe introduced new judges, Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler, to join holdover Randy Jackson. Veteran music producer Jimmy Iovine, chairman of Interscope-Geffen-A&M, was brought in as an in-house mentor for the contestants. All of them are back for Season 11, Lythgoe said.

"I think we made a lot of tweaks last year," Lythgoe said. "I'm not sure that we want to make too many more tweaks this year."

Lythgoe said the most significant change introduced last year had nothing to do with the judges: It was a decision to avoid those fish-out-of-water moments that forced very talented singers to sing in styles that didn't suit them.

"The biggest change we made last year was to say, 'OK, if you're a country singer you can sing any of these genres in your country style,'" Lythgoe said. "We're not going to force you to do rock or anything you can't do. You can take a Michael Jackson song and turn it country."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors who depicted Michael Jackson's doctor as remorseless for the superstar's death urged a judge Wednesday to sentence him to four years in prison, while a defense lawyer said Dr. Conrad Murray is in a prison of self-punishment and should receive probation.

The opposing sentencing memos were filed in advance of Dr. Conrad Murray's sentencing hearing Tuesday. He has been in jail since he was convicted Nov. 7 of involuntary manslaughter for Jackson's fatal overdose of the anesthetic propofol. Prosecutors David Walgren and Deborah Brazil wrote that Murray has shown no remorse for Jackson's death and has placed blame on others, including Jackson himself. They cited a series of post-trial media interviews with Murray that they submitted to Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor on a DVD.

In one excerpt, Murray states, "I don't feel guilty because I did not do anything wrong."

"Finally, the defendant consistently blames the victim for his own death," said the prosecution brief, "even going so

far as to characterize himself as being 'entrapped' by the victim and as someone who suffered a 'betrayal' at the hands of the victim."

Defense attorney Nareg Gourjian, citing letters of praise from Murray's former patients, said: "There is no question that the death of his patient, Mr. Jackson, was unintentional and an enormous tragedy for everyone affected. Dr. Murray has been described as a changed, grief-stricken man, who walks around under a pall of sadness since the loss of his patient, Mr. Jackson."

Gourjian said Murray will never stop punishing himself over Jackson's loss and, "In effect, he will be serving a form of life sentence. However, the offense was not willful nor intended. ... He is, by every account, immensely sorrowful and remorseful."

Murray was convicted after six weeks of testimony focusing on Murray's administration of the drug propofol, an anesthetic not intended for treatment of insomnia or for home use. While Jackson was under the influence of the drug, Murray admitted leaving the room, prosecutors

'Dragonriders' author Anne McCaffrey dies, 85

DUBLIN (AP)—Anne McCaffrey, whose vision of an interstellar alliance between humans and dragons spawned two dozen "Dragonriders of Pern" novels, has died in Ireland aged 85, her publisher and family announced Wednesday.

Random House said the Cambridge, Massachusetts-born author died of a stroke Monday at her rural residence south of Dublin, her home for four decades. She christened her self-designed house Dragonhold.

"Surrounded by the reassuring presence of family and close friends, her passing was swift and without suffering," her three children said in a statement.

McCaffrey turned to the male-dominated world of sci-fi writing after dabbling in singing and amateur acting.

"I have always used emotion

as a writing tool," McCaffrey told the science fiction magazine Locus in a 2004 interview. "That goes back to me being on the stage. The thing is, emotion—if it's visibly felt by the writer—will go through all the processes it takes to publish a story and still hit the reader right in the gut. But you have to really mean it."

She was the first woman to win the top two prizes for science fiction writing, the Hugo and the Nebula, in 1968 and 1969 respectively following publication of her first two novellas set on the fictional planet of Pern.

McCaffrey moved to Ireland in 1970 after filing for divorce from her husband of 20 years. She had ancestral ties to Ireland, which also had just launched a unique program to woo novelists to live there exempt from income tax.

Her popularity surged with the

noted. They said he abandoned his patient when he was the most vulnerable.

In their memo, prosecutors said Murray "acted as an employee and as a drug dealer and completely corrupted the trust necessary in a proper doctor-patient relationship."

Gourjian asked the judge to consider Murray's humble beginnings in Trinidad and his lengthy career of doing good during his practice in Houston.

"The transgression for which he is to be judged should be viewed within the context of the larger life of which it is a part," he said.

He also argued in his 45-page memo that current budgetary problems and overcrowding of prisons has made it necessary to release non-violent, non-dangerous offenders. "Dr. Murray is clearly such a defendant," he said.

Gourjian noted that because of constant death threats, Murray must be kept in solitary confinement, which is expensive.

"Conrad Murray still has the knowledge, capacity and motivation to be a source of healing in the world," Gourjian wrote.

1978 publication of "The White Dragon," which completed her original trilogy begun in the late 1960s. It was her only novel to break into The New York Times best-seller list.

But she maintained a prolific writing pace, producing a further 21 novels set in Pern at various periods of its imagined history.

Over the past decade as her health faded, she increasingly collaborated with her son Todd, who co-authored five Pern-based novels and wrote three others on his own. The 23rd novel, "Dragon's Time," was published in June with mother and son sharing the writing credit, while the 24th, "Sky Dragons," is set for publication next year.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter. Funeral arrangements were not announced.

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The Muppets

Friday & Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Jason Segel, Amy Adams
 Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

When an evil oil man discovers black gold beneath Muppet Theater, Kermit recruits a Muppet super-fan and his two best friends to help gather up the gang for a telethon that will save the venue from being razed and replaced with a giant oil pump. Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) never met an oil field he couldn't suck dry. So when Tex discovers a bountiful reservoir right underneath Muppet Theater, he begins drawing up plans to claim the land and start drilling. Little does Tex realize that devoted Muppets fan Walter is currently in Los Angeles with his best friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams), and that he's not about to let one man's greed spoil a good thing for everyone. With Kermit by their side, Walter, Gary, and Mary hatch a plan to put on a big telethon that will help them raise the ten million dollars needed to keep Muppet Theater standing.

Arthur Christmas

Friday & Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
 Comedy • Rated PG

★ ★ ★

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Friday & Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Happy Feet Two

Friday & Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
 Children's/family • Rated PG

Immortals

Friday & Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto
 Epic • Rated R

Jack and Jill

Friday & Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
 Comedy • Rated PG

Tower Heist

Friday & Saturday				9:35
Sunday			7:05	
Monday thru Thursday			7:05	

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy
 Crime, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Puss in Boots

Friday & Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Sunday	1:05	4:05		
Monday thru Thursday		4:05		

Anronio Banderas, Salma Hayek
 Children's/family • Rated PG

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Man's denial of paternity leaves wife dumbfounded

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have recently found out that I'm pregnant. My problem is my husband doesn't believe the baby is his. He says he and his ex tried for 13 years to have a baby and couldn't.

I don't know what to say to him. I can't explain his past with that other woman. My doctor has ordered rest and no stress, but this is taking a toll on me. When the subject comes up, I just walk away and my husband explodes. What do I do?



Dear Abby

EXPECTING IN GUAM

DEAR EXPECTING: Your husband is "exploding" because you are walking away and won't discuss this with him. Tell him that you are scheduling an appointment for BOTH of you with your OB/GYN. Let the doctor offer to refer him to a urologist who can test his sperm count, which may be low. It would explain why he and his ex were unable to conceive. The problem could also have been hers.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 78-year-old mother opens her mouth for only three reasons—to tell me what to do, complain about other people and to remind me that when my older sister died, it left a void in her life no one can fill, including me and my other sister.

Several months ago, I visited Mom and she wasn't feeling well. She has a heart condition and osteoporosis, which makes her unsteady on her feet. A few weeks later, I called to check on her but couldn't reach her by phone. Because I live 150 miles away, I asked my uncle to check on her. He went to her house several times and rang her bell, but got no answer at the door. I called other family members and friends, fearful that she had fallen—or worse.

Finally, that night at 10 p.m. I called the local police department. When the officers knocked on the door, Mom finally answered and told them that where she was or what she was doing was no one else's business! She later told my uncle the same thing.

This is a cautionary tale to the elderly or infirm who tell us to leave them alone. WE WILL DO SO. But do not complain when you don't hear from us, because you can't have it both ways.

FED UP IN TEXAS

DEAR FED UP: OK, you have now vented. Your mother is a difficult woman and you have my sympathy. And now that the dear lady has made clear how she feels, follow your mother's wishes with a clear conscience.

P.S. If you know any of her neighbors, consider asking them to let you know if her newspapers start piling up.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend "Katie" doesn't share the same religious or political beliefs I do. She enjoys discussing these topics and assumes that everyone agrees with her. If someone tries to disagree, she becomes highly offended and angry.

Whenever she brings these issues up, I just stop talking. I have found that no matter how much one argues with someone over controversial issues, no one changes their opinions and only hurt feelings remain. How would you go about tactfully changing the subject?

DIFFERING FRIEND IN LARAMIE, WYO.

DEAR DIFFERING FRIEND: I wouldn't do it once someone has started proselytizing. I'd do it BEFORE. At a time when you and your friend are involved in some mutually enjoyable activity, mention that certain topics, such as politics and religion, make you uncomfortable and that you'd appreciate it if they weren't brought up with you. And if she "forgets," smile sweetly and say, "Who do you think will be playing in the Super Bowl?"

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Robertson: Is mac 'n' cheese 'a black thing?'

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson has been set straight on Thanksgiving comfort food.

"The 700 Club" founder showed a clip of Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday. Robertson's host, Kristi Watts, asked what dish the former secretary of state had to have on Thanksgiving. Rice replied macaroni and cheese.

Watts reacted enthusiastically, adding "Sister, that is my dish..."

Appearing perplexed, Robertson asked Watts, who is black, of the women's shared enthusiasm for mac 'n' cheese, "Is that a black thing?"

Watts replied "It is a black thing Pat. ...The world needs to get on board." The two



Robertson

laughed about it.

The exchange was posted on The Huffington Post and other blogs.

Robertson has a record of making provocative statements. He said Haiti was cursed one day after a devastating earthquake and that divorcing a spouse with Alzheimer's disease is justifiable.

'G.I. Joe 2' crew member killed during filming

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A crew member working on the film "G.I. Joe 2: Retaliation" has been killed on the set in New Orleans in what the studio is calling an unusual accident.

Paramount Pictures spokeswoman Virginia Lam said Wednesday that Mike Huber was killed Tuesday. She would

not comment to The Associated Press on the circumstances surrounding his death.

New Orleans Police Department spokeswoman Remi Braden says the accident occurred on property owned by NASA, so the federal government is heading the investigation. A spokesman for NASA

did not immediately return a telephone call for comment.

Lam says the studio is fully cooperating with the investigation.

The sequel stars Bruce Willis, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Channing Tatum. The action movie is scheduled for release in the summer.

'Die Hard' star Willis selling Idaho home for \$15M

HAILEY, Idaho (AP)—"Die Hard" movie star Bruce Willis is asking \$15 million for his Idaho home complete with a guesthouse, gym and pool with water slides.

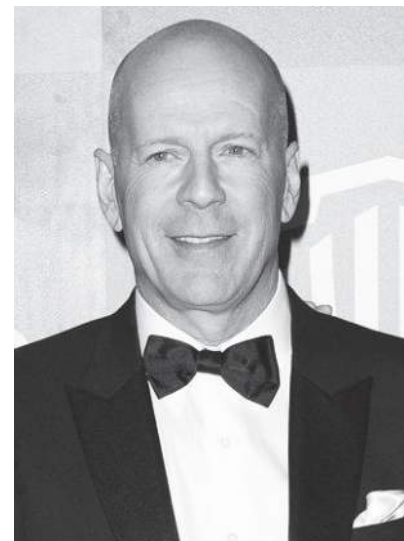
The Idaho Mountain Express reports Willis' property in Hailey's Flying Heart subdivision is up for sale because he hasn't been able to spend much time in the area.

This is just part of Willis' plans to pare his ties to the region.

He's also trying to unload The Mint bar and nightclub on Hailey's Main Street after dropping the price to \$4.5 million, from \$6 million when it went on the market last year.

Willis and former wife, Demi Moore, became part of the celebrity scene in the Sun Valley area during the 1990s.

Willis still owns a ski area, Soldier Mountain, west of Hailey.



In this Jan. 16, 2011 file photo, actor Bruce Willis arrives at the 12th Annual Warner Brothers and InStyle Golden Globe After Party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

George Michael in Vienna hospital

VIENNA (AP)—George Michael's publicist says the British singer has been hospitalized in Vienna with pneumonia. Connie Filippello said Wednesday that Michael's upcoming tours in Vienna, Strasbourg, France, and Cardiff, Wales, have been postponed as a result and will be rescheduled. Her statement said the singer has been "diagnosed with pneumonia and he is currently receiving treatment." Austrian state broadcaster says that is happening at Vienna's AKH hospital. A woman who answered the phone there refused to comment due to privacy rules. She also did not give her name. Michael, 48, canceled his planned Vienna concert on Monday two hours before it was due to start.

Bee Gee Robin Gibb says he's improving

LONDON (AP)—Bee Gee Robin Gibb says on his website that he is recovering from a serious illness. The star says he has been "very unwell" but is now "on the road to recovery." Gibb's extremely gaunt appearance and the cancellation of several public appearances have sparked fears that he is seriously ill. He was hospitalized last month with colon inflammation and other problems but has been discharged.

The 61-year-old Gibb thanked his fans Wednesday for their messages of support. He said he was grateful for their prayers and good wishes. The Bee Gees have sold millions of records and are best known for the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack which includes the hit "Stayin' Alive."

Celebrities serve up turkey to LA's homeless

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian, Blair Underwood and other celebrities served up a Thanksgiving day meal to the homeless in Los Angeles. Longtime Los Angeles Mission supporter and screen legend Kirk Douglas along with his wife Anne hosted the Wednesday event for the seventh year in a row. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa served up turkey and posed for pictures with Kardashian and Jennifer Love Hewitt. Organizers estimated there were 3,000 pounds of turkey, 700 pounds of mashed potatoes, 80 gallons of gravy and 600 pies.

Settlement in Hulk Hogan divorce case in Fla.

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Court records show a financial settlement has been agreed upon between wrestler Terry Bollea—better known as Hulk Hogan—and his ex-wife. The St. Petersburg Times reports

Linda Bollea received a little more than 70 percent of the couple's liquid assets in their divorce settlement. He agreed to give his ex-wife 40 percent ownership in his various companies and pay her an additional \$3 million property settlement. Linda Bollea filed for divorce in 2009. The settlement was confidential but came to light this week after it was attached to a new motion filed in court records. The paper reports Linda Bollea received \$7.44 million of the couple's \$10.41 million that was held in bank and investment accounts. Terry Bollea will not pay his ex-wife alimony.

Weinstein desires to become recognized film brand

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein wants to turn the film studio bearing his family's name into a recognizable brand. Until then, the recent films from The Weinstein Co. will need to do the talking. At least one of them. "The Artist" is a modern homage to the silent film era and was the darling of the Cannes and Toronto International film festivals. It was shot in black and white using the original 4:3 aspect ratio. It comes out Friday. Already in theaters is "My Week with Marilyn," starring two-time Oscar nominee

Dylan cover discs to benefit Amnesty International

NEW YORK (AP)—A sprawling new collection of Bob Dylan cover songs is being released in January to benefit Amnesty International.

The human rights organization said Wednesday that all of the songs on the 4-CD collection will be new or previously unreleased versions, with the exception of Dylan's title cut, "Chimes of Freedom."

The disc, to be released in the U.S. on Jan. 24, is being produced by the same music executives who made a 2007 benefit album for Darfur featuring John Lennon songs.

Participating artists range from 19-year-old Miley Cyrus to 92-year-old folk legend Pete Seeger. Cyrus recorded "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go" and Seeger, with a children's chorus, does "Forever Young."

The disc is being released to commemorate Amnesty International's 50th birthday.

Among the other participating artists: Adele, Cage the Elephant, Dave Matthews Band, Ziggy Marley, Maroon 5, My Chemical Romance, Patti Smith, Sting, Pete Townshend, the Gaslight Anthem and Ke\$ha.

Eighty artists and 75 new songs are included.

Michelle Williams as Marilyn Monroe. It's based on the writings of Colin Clark, who spent a week with the iconic actress in 1957. Weinstein says depending on the success of the film he'd like to see Katy Perry play Monroe on Broadway. He said Wednesday she would "knock it out of the universe."

Faye Dunaway gives up NYC apt. after landlord sues

NEW YORK (AP)—Faye Dunaway is moving on from a fight with a landlord over a New York City apartment—by moving out. The New York Times reported Wednesday the "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Chinatown" actress agreed this month to give up her rent-stabilized, \$1,048-a-month Manhattan apartment. The newspaper says an agreement filed last week gave her until this past Monday to move out. Her landlord's lawyer tells the newspaper she has. Dunaway's agent has declined to comment. The landlord sued Dunaway in August, seeking to evict her. The lawsuit said she didn't use the one-bedroom walk-up as her primary residence, as required by rent stabilization rules. Dunaway's lawyers had said she planned to keep the apartment and wanted repairs made. She had rented it since 1994.

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• Answers employee questions regarding basic company policies and practices in the absence of Talent Management Manager.
• Receives and screens all incoming applications including maintenance of employment applications.
• Coordinate the pre-employment drug testing and conduct background/reference checks. Collects all required documents from new hires.
• Types and proofreads letters, reports and other material from rough draft.
• Responsible for the orderly maintenance of the file room.
• Responsible for the reproduction of all employee related materials: Employee Handbooks, Employment policies and procedures, New Hire Packets and any other materials for distribution to employees.
• Responsible for distribution & collection of correspondences (external and internal) for the department, including Letter of Intent, Job Postings & Letter of decline.
• Expected to work independently with very little supervision.
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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• Background in/Knowledge of government contracts process and negotiation preferred
• Excellent interpersonal skills as well as excellent oral and written communication skills are required
• Must be proficient in DDMS Software with intermediate/advanced skills in word processing, spreadsheet and presentation applications.
• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

POSITION : GOVERNMENT SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :
• Minimum of 3 years experience in government procurement sales & government procurement regulations
• Minimum of 2 years experience in sales of office & school products
• Ability to manage a pipeline of 50+ accounts at any given time
• Experience with and demonstrated proficiency with MS Office Applications (such as MS Word, MS Excel) and DDMS Software
• Manage and monitor the MRO purchases of customers
• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

POSITION : CREDIT ANALYST (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :
• Associates Degree in Business/Related Discipline or Equivalent Work Related Experience
• A minimum of three years experience in a credit/collections environment
• Proficiency in MS Office Applications (such as MS Word, MS Excel, MS Publisher) and DDMS Software
• Strong ability to communicate both orally and in writing
• Ability to be flexible with position duties and scope of work
• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

POSITION : ACCOUNTANT (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :
• Associate's Degree in Accounting
• Minimum five years work-related experience in general accounting in the retail industry
• Must be able to prepare and maintain G/L, financial statements and reports
• Must be able to prepare payroll and monthly, quarterly and annual tax returns
• Must know CNMI & Federal tax rules
• Must be proficient in MS Word and Excel, Peach Tree Accounting and DDMS Software
• Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License

POSITION : INVENTORY CONTROL SPECIALIST (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :
• 3-5 years experience in related field
• Working knowledge of inventory practices
• Cost accounting background
• Proficient with PC; software to include: word, excel and DDMS
• Ability to write routine reports and correspondence
• Detail oriented and well organized
• Must be flexible to work weekends and holidays
• Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

POSITION : ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :
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• Must be proficient in MS Excel and Peach Tree Accounting Software.
• Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to National Office Supply on Beach Road, South Garapan. A copy of valid police and court clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Background checks will be required prior to employment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification & experience. All positions close on November 25, 2011.

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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S P O R T S

Sources: Talks resume toward ending NBA lockout



NEW YORK (AP)—Talks aimed at ending the NBA lockout have resumed, two people with knowledge of the situation said Wednesday, with a quick settlement necessary to start the season by Christmas.

The discussions began quietly Tuesday and are expected to continue through the Thanksgiving holiday, the people told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the talks were supposed to remain confidential.

The talks between representatives of the owners and players are now centered on settling their lawsuits: The players filed an antitrust lawsuit against the league in Minnesota and the league filed a pre-emptive suit in New York, seeking to prove the lockout was legal.

Because the union disbanded, it cannot negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement, but the settlement talks could lead to that. The CBA can only be completed once the union has reformed.

Neither side commented on the talks, first reported by Yahoo Sports, though the league said in a statement it "remains in favor of a negotiated resolution" to the lockout.

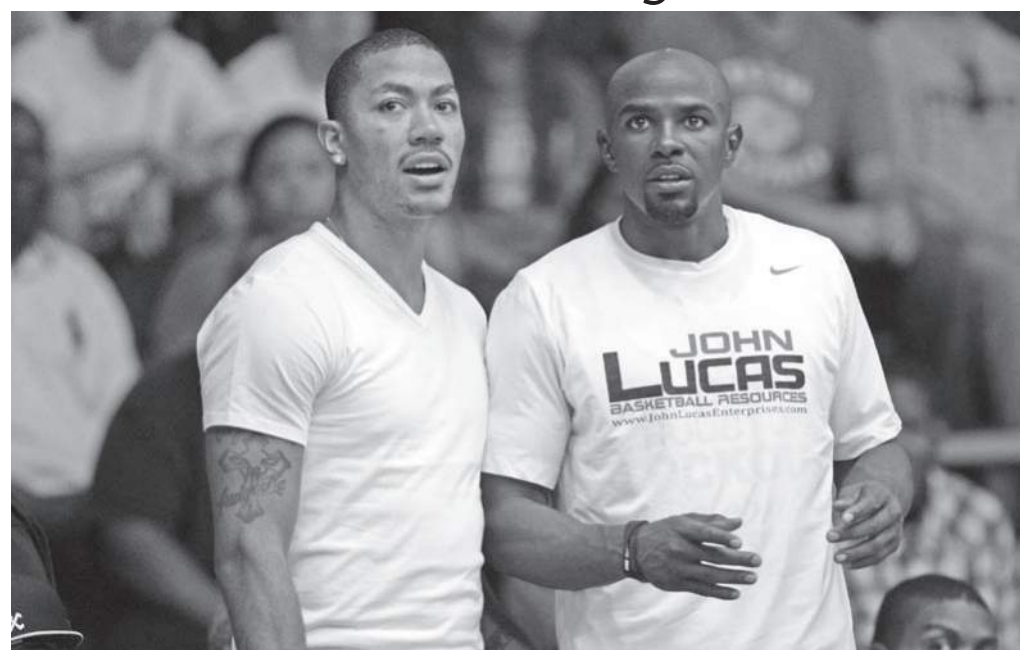
The news revived the hopes of saving the Christmas slate, when the league schedules some marquee matchups to kick off its national TV package. The NBA finals rematch between Dallas and Miami was to headline three games this season.

Commissioner David Stern has said it would take about 30 days from an agreement to the start of the regular season, meaning a deal may need to be reached by the end of this week.

The league had wanted to open a 72-game schedule on Dec. 15, pushing the start of the playoffs and finals back a week, if players had agreed to the last offer. But players rejected the owners' most recent proposal on Nov. 14, announcing instead they were disbanding the union to pave the way to sue the league.

David Boies, one of the attorneys representing the players, has repeatedly said he hoped the league would be compelled to settle rather than risk a potentially lengthy trial that could end with players being awarded about \$6 billion in damages.

When talks broke down, the sides were still divided over the division of revenues and certain changes sought by owners to curb spending by big-market teams that players felt would limit or restrict their options in free agency. Owners are insistent on a 50-50 split of basketball-related income. Union officials indicated they



Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose, left, talks with Washington Wizards' Mike James, right, during the Houston Lockout Celebrity Basketball Game hosted by former NBA player and coach John Lucas, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011, in Houston.

Dr. J memorabilia back in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—His sneakers are returning to Philadelphia. The 76ers are hopeful Dr. J will come along for the ride.

A day after the Sixers swooped in and collected some Julius Erving memorabilia, team CEO Adam Aron said he has reached out to Dr. J about joining the organization in some capacity.

"We'd like to bring Dr. J back to Philadelphia," Aron said Monday. "He's only one of the greatest 76ers of all time. We'd love to see Julius Erving have a connection with the 76ers in some shape or fashion. I don't know what, exactly."

Erving's retired No. 6 already hangs in the rafters—and soon Philadelphia fans will feel more connected to the Hall of Famer.

The team bought 10 lots containing 18 items from Erving's personal basketball memorabilia collection auction that ended over the weekend.

SCP Auctions said more than 140 items from Erving's collection sold for a record \$3.5 million. Among the highlights: His 1974 New Jersey Nets ABA championship ring sold for \$460,471, a record price for a sports ring.

Neither that ring nor Erving's 1983 76ers NBA championship landed with the franchise.

Aron said all the items the team won were \$10,000 or less.

Erving is aware the 76ers bought merchandise at the auction. He was not immedi-

ately available for comment.

Erving told The Associated Press last month he's never been a "hoarder or collector," and planned to donate a portion of the auction proceeds to the Salvation Army.

The 61-year-old Erving said the auction was part of a long-planned celebration of his career. He said most of his cherished possessions were in storage.

The 76ers purchased items representative of his collegiate, ABA and NBA days, as well as awards that recognized Erving's humanitarian work.

The memorabilia will go on display at the Wells Fargo Center and the team's practice facility.

"We want him to know that the Sixers care about him in every dimension," Aron said.

Aron had pledged a fan-friendly ownership and plans a grand unveiling of all the winning items at a later date. Among the memorabilia the 76ers own: late 1970s practice-worn warm-up suits; autographed Converse sneakers; his 1983 J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award; letters to Erving from former presidents; and the 1978 Wanamaker Athletic Award presented to Erving for reflecting the "Greatest Credit Upon Philadelphia."

"We spent some real money," Aron said. "We'll have some fun Dr. J things to show our fans and our players."

Erving is perhaps the greatest Sixer and the franchise hasn't won a championship since '83. His sightings in the

city and at Sixers functions have been sparse and there was a disconnect between him and the team.

That bond is about to tighten.

With NBA games through Dec. 15 canceled because of the lockout, Aron had time on his hands to bid. Joshua Harris and the rest of his new ownership group took control of the Sixers in October and have been unable to make a single personnel decision because of the lockout.

But they've been busy.

Aron promised cost-saving changes for fans at the introductory press conference and immediately slashed ticket prices. The Sixers received about 6,500 responses and suggestions to improve the product at NewSixersOwner.com—and Aron promised he's reading and changes are in store.

He said he's slept on his office sofa twice in the last month after late-night brainstorming sessions. Sixers ownership has a two-page, single-spaced list of all the game-day experiences it is improving—whenever the season starts.

"We want to give Sixers fans the kind of experience that they deserve," he said, "and what they want."

The Sixers have promised to strengthen the link to their past.

"We've been reaching out to a lot of our former Sixers players because we'd like to build a bit of a family here where, once you're a 76er, you're always a 76er," Aron said.

could be open to that, even though they were guaranteed 57 percent in the old CBA, but only if the league conceded on some of the "system" issues.

With the union no longer

representing the players, it was unclear who was involved in the new round of talks. NBPA executive director Billy Hunter is officially part of the players' legal team so he's able to take

part in the talks, though his participation in negotiations could strengthen the league's contention that the disclaimer strategy was a "sham" and the union hadn't really gone anywhere.

Harbaughs lead Ravens and 49ers into historic duel



BALTIMORE (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers have thrived this season because they are physical, relentless and combative.

Just like their coaches.

The no-holds barred sibling rivalry between John and Jim Harbaugh moves to the national stage on Thanksgiving night, when they make NFL history by becoming the first brothers to compete on opposite sidelines as head coaches.

John Harbaugh is seeking to take the Ravens (7-3) to the playoffs for the fourth time in as many years at the helm. Jim Harbaugh has turned the 49ers (9-1) into Super Bowl contenders in his rookie year as an NFL coach by instilling his unyielding work ethic into a workmanlike offense and the league's stingiest defense (14.5 points per game).

The brothers received much of their football knowledge from their father, Jack, a longtime college coach. Their competitive spirit was honed during endless duels in almost every game imaginable—including a few they invented just so they could butt heads for boasting purposes.

"We would play tennis-ball basketball on a coat hanger rim," big brother John recalled. "We were throwing balls between tree branches, I guess, throwing snowballs against trees. It was whatever we could think of."

Sometimes, things got a bit out of hand.

"We have never had a fight as adults, maybe since we were 25 or something," John said. "But we had some knock-down drag-outs when we were younger. I can remember my mom screaming, wailing and crying, 'You're brothers! You are not supposed to act like this!' There are prob-

Chiefs claim Orton off waivers; waive WR Colbert

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kyle Orton has a new home in the AFC West.

Orton was claimed off waivers Wednesday by the Kansas City Chiefs, who were in the market for a veteran quarterback after losing Matt Cassel to a season-ending injury to his throwing hand.

Orton was released by the Broncos on Tuesday, six weeks after he was benched following a 1-4 start. The former Chicago Bears starter, who passed for 3,000 yards each of his first two seasons in Denver, became expendable when the Broncos opted to go with Tim Tebow as their starter.

The Chiefs will be responsible for approximately \$2.5 million remaining on Orton's nearly \$8.9 million salary this season, but they had plenty of space under the salary cap to make the move.

Orton can become a free agent after this season.



San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates with tight end Vernon Davis (85) after Davis scored on an 18-yard touchdown reception against the Arizona Cardinals in the third quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011.

ably a lot of mothers out there that can relate to that."

John, 49, and Jim, 47, aren't the only pair of brothers who have dueled while growing up. They are, however, poised to become the only ones to take that competition into an NFL game as head coaches.

"It goes back to how hard both of them worked to get to where they're at today," said Joani Crean, their younger sister. "Nobody said, 'Oh, you're Jack Harbaugh's son, why don't you come do this job?' They both started out in their professions at the bottom rung, so to speak. They both worked their way up."

Their players know how

important this game is to each brother.

"They're both competitive. We're competitive as a team," 49ers running back Frank Gore said. "Baltimore has a great team—they've been playing great ball for a while. Now we're doing our thing, so it should be a great game."

Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs said, "We really want to win it bad for (John). We've (heard) they were going to kind of get after each other like they did when they were little. It's going to be fun to be a part of a sibling rivalry."

The last time John and Jim Harbaugh competed against

each other in a sporting event was during an American Legion baseball game when both were teenagers. John was part of the an elite team and Jim wasn't, so little brother created a team of his own. Jim can remember virtually all of his teammates and the final score: Jim lost 1-0.

John's recollection of the game is not quite as precise, or so it would seem.

"We won. That's what I remember about it," he said. "I think I had the game-winning

home run, too, if I remember correctly. At least as far as everyone here knows, right?"

The stakes will be much higher on Thanksgiving night, although to the Harbaugh brothers, it's just another chapter in a competition that will almost certainly continue for the rest of their lives.

"I'm really looking forward to it, and I think Jim is, too," John said. "Yeah, it's going to be very competitive, it's going to be very emotional. We're

going to have a lot of family in town. It's one of those things in life where you don't get these moments back, you don't get these chances to live back. And this is a chance to live. Not just for Jim and I, but for the family, even the players and fans. If nothing else, it's something to remember. It's an event. It's cool."

The Harbaughs' parents will be at the stadium early, but will watch the game at John's house to "allow the stage to be John and Jim's. I want to rephrase that. Let the stage be the 49ers and the Ravens. I stand corrected," Jack Harbaugh said.

Some have dubbed this the Harbaugh Bowl, but it's also a very important game for both teams. The 49ers have won eight straight and are chasing unbeaten Green Bay for the top seed in the NFC. San Francisco can clinch the NFC West with a win and a Seattle loss on Sunday against Washington.

The Ravens are locked in a first-place tie with the Pittsburgh Steelers, one game ahead of surprising Cincinnati.

Jim Harbaugh loves the idea of squaring off against John again, although he'd have preferred a more neutral scenario.

"It's the first time in history that two brothers have coached against each other," he said. "This will be the first time since they went to a 16-game schedule that a team has traveled three time zones to play a Thursday game."

Asked how he will feel staring across the field at his brother, John said, "I'll be filled with so much pride and joy. And then probably some anger and other things once we start playing. But really, it's special."

NFL BRIEFS

Texans place QB Schaub on IR, sign Kellen Clemens

HOUSTON (AP)—Texans coach Gary Kubiak woke up Wednesday to the bad news he knew was probably inevitable. Doctors told quarterback Matt Schaub that he'll need season-ending surgery to repair a Lisfranc injury in his right foot, and Houston put Schaub on injured reserve and signed Kellen Clemens. Kubiak was hoping Schaub might still return this season after he was hurt in Houston's 37-9 win over Tampa Bay on Nov. 13. But Schaub met with several doctors and talked to Kubiak early Wednesday about the disappointing diagnosis. "Well, that there's no way that any rest would allow him the opportunity to go play. It was just too risky," Kubiak said. "It's something he needs to get fixed for his future, so that's what we got to go do. We've got to go do what's best for him." Matt Leinart will start for Houston (7-3) at Jacksonville (3-7) on Sunday. Rookie T.J. Yates, a fifth-round pick, will be the

backup, and Clemens will take the No. 3 spot on the depth chart.

Adrian Peterson still in walking boot for Vikings

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Adrian Peterson remained in a walking boot to treat a high ankle sprain on his left leg on Wednesday, and coach Leslie Frazier said he will not play on Sunday against Atlanta if he can't hit the practice field in the next two days. Peterson missed practice on Wednesday after sustaining the injury against Oakland last weekend. Frazier said the team hopes the boot will be removed Thursday. But if Peterson cannot practice this week, Minnesota will not try to push him to get ready for the Falcons. "If he can't do anything by Friday we wouldn't try and go work him out on Sunday to see if he could be ready to go," Frazier said. At 2-8, the Vikings have little incentive to force their franchise player back onto the field. Toby Gerhart would start in Peterson's place if he is unable to play.

Bills RB Fred Jackson placed on IR, out for season

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Fred Jackson will miss the rest of the year with a broken bone in his lower right leg, an injury that could derail Buffalo's once-promising season. The team placed Jackson on injured reserve Wednesday, hours after Bills coach Chan Gailey said the running back wouldn't play Sunday in a pivotal game against the New York Jets. "That's disappointing news for our team and certainly for Fred," Gailey said in a statement released by the team. "He was having a great year. The process for Fred to return to the field would most likely take him through the end of the season, so we have made the difficult decision to place him on injured reserve." Jackson's best season was cut short after he was hurt in Sunday's blowout loss to the Miami Dolphins. Now, the Bills (5-5) will face the challenge of trying to erase an 11-year playoff drought without their most explosive offensive threat.

Scandal puts PSU football discipline in spotlight



STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—A Penn State administrator responsible for overseeing student discipline said former coach Joe Paterno did not have the authority to change his office's decisions when football players were sanctioned.

Joe Puzycki said Tuesday night in an email to The Associated Press that "we adjudicated athlete cases the same as we did any other student"—though Paterno was vocal in sharing his opinions.

The interactions outlined by Puzycki, currently a university assistant vice president, offer a contrasting view to comments made by former student affairs vice president Vicki Triponey, to whom Puzycki once reported. Triponey said Paterno's players got in trouble more often than other students, and got special treatment compared to non-athletes.

"In some cases where Mr. Paterno disagreed with our handling of a situation he would openly articulate that position to me. This position in itself, though, never changed my or my staff's decisions," Puzycki told the AP. "Mr. Paterno in his position as a coach simply did not have the authority to change any of our decisions. That could only be done through formal student appeal or administrative review."

Triponey resigned her post as the university's standards and conduct officer in 2007. Reached by the AP at her home in Charleston, S.C., Triponey confirmed that she sent a 2005 email to then-president Graham Spanier and others in which she expressed her concerns about how Penn State handled discipline cases involving football players. The Wall Street Journal published excerpts from the email on Tuesday.

The email surfaced as Penn State is reeling in the aftermath of criminal charges filed this month against Jerry Sandusky, a former assistant football coach accused of molesting eight boys, some on campus, over a 15-year period. Paterno "is insistent he knows best how to discipline his players ... and their status as a student when they commit violations of our standards should NOT be our concern ... and I think he was saying we should treat football players different from other students in this regard," Triponey wrote in the Aug. 12, 2005, email.

"Coach Paterno would rather we NOT inform the public when a football player is found responsible for committing a serious violation of the law and/or our student code," she wrote, "despite any moral or legal obligation to do so."

The Sandusky scandal resulted in the firing of Paterno, whom trustees felt did not do



Penn State football coach Joe Paterno arrives home Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, in State College, Pa. AP

enough about one accusation involving a 10-year-old boy. President Graham Spanier also departed under pressure.

Athletic Director Tim Curley has been placed on administrative leave, and Vice President Gary Schultz, who was in charge of the university's police department, has stepped down. Schultz and Curley are charged with lying to a grand jury and failing to report to police, and Sandusky is charged with 40 counts of child sex abuse. All maintain their innocence.

Triponey told the AP there was "an ongoing debate" throughout her four years at Penn State over who should deal with misconduct by football players.

Her 2005 email was sent the day after a heated meeting in which Paterno complained about the discipline process.

"He knew better than anyone how to discipline them. We wanted to show him the (disciplinary) data and suggest that 'Well, whatever it is we're doing, it's not working.' They're getting into trouble at a greater rate than they should. We wanted to find a way to address that," she said. "The meeting ended up being a one-sided conversation with the coach talking about his frustrations, his anger, his not being happy with the way we were running the system."

Paterno's lawyer, Wick Sollers, defended his client in a written statement.

"The allegations that have been described are out of context, misleading and filled with inaccuracies," he said. "In the current atmosphere, it is not surprising that every aspect of Penn State University's academics and athletics will be reviewed."

Puzycki was the school's chief disciplinary officer, reporting to Triponey. He has since been promoted to a position in which he oversees the current Director of Judicial Affairs.

"I think it is important ... that as we move forward as an institution that we need to provide accurate information," he wrote.

Puzycki told the AP he did not recall Paterno saying that players should be treated differently than other students, "but he was clear to express his disapproval, in general, of my handling of cases involving football players." He said Paterno would express that he thought he could do a better job holding players accountable, given his role as coach.

Puzycki said he could site just two cases in his 10-plus years as judicial affairs chief in which changes were made to disciplinary decisions—each time by superiors.

One was an off-campus fight involving about a dozen players in 2007, in which he said Spanier intervened; the other involved an unidentified player who was kicked off the team. Puzycki said that sanction was lessened by Triponey, who told the Journal she had been directed to do so by Spanier.

Penn State football has long been regarded as an example of a well-run program that graduates an above-average percentage of its players while operating within the rules and winning on the field. But the Sandusky case has forced a re-examination of the Nittany Lions and Paterno's 46-year tenure as coach.

A review of Associated Press stories over the last decade shows at least 35 Penn State players faced internal discipline or criminal charges between 2003-09 for a variety of offenses ranging from assault to drunk driving to marijuana possession. One player was acquitted of sexual assault.

Penn State has hired former FBI director Louis Freeh to lead an internal investigation of the Sandusky case, while the NCAA announced last Friday it was launching its own inquiry focused on Sandusky and whether Penn State exercised "institutional control" in handling accusations against him. Asked Tuesday whether other disciplinary cases at Penn State would be reviewed, an NCAA spokeswoman said she had nothing else to say at this time.

Triponey, who arrived at Penn State in 2003—four years after Sandusky retired and a year following an alleged assault by him in the football showers—told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" she was not involved in any conversations with or about the former assistant coach.

She told the AP that pressure to go easier on football players increased as her tenure

went on.

"Many times, (because of) the pressure placed on us by the president or the football coach, eventually, we would end up doing sanctions that were not what another student would've got," she said. "It was much less. It was adapted to try to accommodate the concerns of the coach."

Triponey said she's a long-time football fan and worked at universities for most of her career. She said the relationship with coaches was different at other places, citing Randy Edsall, whom she worked with at Connecticut, as an example of someone who ran an open program and helped his players learn from mistakes. Edsall is now head coach at Maryland.

Curley and Spanier did not reply to messages for comment. A representative for Curley told the Journal that "he tried to make sure all student athletes were treated equally with regard to the code of conduct."

Ex-Florida coach Meyer says no offer at Ohio State

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Despite numerous reports saying he's all but set to become Ohio State's next football coach, Urban Meyer said Wednesday that is not the case.

"I have not been offered any job nor is there a deal in place," the former Florida coach said in a statement released through ESPN, where he is a college football analyst. "I plan on spending Thanksgiving with my family and will not comment on this any further."

Several websites, TV stations and The Columbus Dispatch have reported that Meyer has reached an agreement in principle with Ohio State and, barring any last-minute problems, will be introduced as the Buckeyes' coach next week.

People within the athletic department and close to the team told The Associated Press the job has not been offered to Meyer and nothing has

been completed. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the coaching search is supposed to be confidential. Athletic director Gene Smith declined to comment Wednesday.

Ohio State, under interim coach Luke Fickell, plays at No. 17 Michigan on Saturday. Fickell, who some reports have said will be retained on Meyer's staff, declined to address the story, which has been percolating for days.

"No, I won't," he said Wednesday. "It's not about that. I'm going to have enough respect for this football game to make sure it's about this football game. I don't think this is the time and the place."

Speaking briefly to reporters, he was asked if he knew whether a decision on a new coach had been reached.

"I know there's a game at noon on Saturday," he said.

Pujols, Reyes, Wilson offered arbitration



NEW YORK (AP)—Albert Pujols, Jose Reyes and C.J. Wilson have been offered salary arbitration, guaranteeing their teams two extra draft picks next year if they sign with new clubs.

Teams faced decisions on just seven Type A free agents as the Wednesday midnight EST deadline approached. A new club signing one of those players would lose a top pick in June's amateur draft, and a team that offers arbitration and loses one of those players would receive two extra selections as compensation.

Pujols (St. Louis), Reyes (Mets) and Wilson (Texas) were given the offers, along with Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins. They have until Nov. 30 to accept.

The Phillies declined to offer arbitration to right-hander Roy Oswalt.

The other Type A free agents were Milwaukee first baseman Prince Fielder and Boston designated hitter David Ortiz.

Reliever Jonathan Papelbon, the eighth Type A player, already has left Boston to sign a \$50 million, four-year deal with the Phillies. The Red Sox will receive draft-pick compensation

for losing Papelbon.

San Diego offered arbitration to closer Heath Bell, who had been a Type A player but was reclassified under Tuesday's labor deal. If he signs elsewhere, the Padres will gain two draft picks, but Bell's new club won't lose any. Philadelphia made an arbitration offer to reliever Ryan Madson, who is in the same category.

Also offered arbitration were Padres pitcher Aaron Harang, Chicago White Sox left-hander Mark Buehrle, St. Louis right-hander Edwin Jackson and Phillies outfielder Raul Ibanez.

Susupe Armatech notches third straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Susupe Armatech nailed its third victory in a row after beating Puerto Rico Triskelion, 66-48, last Sunday at the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Eugene Manglona led Armatech in the win, scoring 22 points, while James Abuy and Bruce Berline also finished in double figures, chipping in 15 and 12, respectively.

Puerto Rico kept pace with Susupe in the opening canto before the latter took full control of the match in the second period. Susupe led by only three after the first frame, 16-13, but recorded a double-digit edge at halftime, 37-26, as Abuy and Manglona scored nine points apiece in the second quarter.

Manglona continued to lead Susupe's offense in the second



half and he drew support from Berline, who logged six of his total makers in the fourth period to help their team walk away with an easy win.

Brandon Talania had 22 points for Puerto Rico, which has yet to win after three games in Pool A.

Tanapag 73, Koblerville 65

In another Pool A game, Tanapag/FGC Construction improved to a 2-2 record after downing Koblerville/GEC.

Edwin Santos canned nine of his 13 points in the payoff canto to lift Tanapag to the eight-point win and hand Koblerville its second loss in four matches.

Tanapag fell behind in the first half, 34-35, but drew points from seven different players in the third period to grab the upper hand, 53-45. Santos, who was scoreless in the first half, drilled only four

points in the third before finding his rhythm in the fourth to keep Tanapag at bay.

San Antonio 85, San Jose 43

San Antonio/Gene's Barber routed San Jose Blue Haus to gain a share of the lead in Pool A.

With its 3-1 record, San Antonio joins Garapan JHEM'S at the top of the team standings in their group. Pedro Castro led San Antonio with his 23 points, while Jaymark De Guzman contributed 20.

San Jose (0-3) took a slim lead in the first period, 12-11, but began collapsing when San Antonio's young guns started speeding up the game in the second canto.

POOL B San Vicente 72, China Town 68

San Vicente Saints remained

undefeated in two games after thwarting China Town (1-2) Slashers.

Travis Eubanks scored San Vicente's first six points in the fourth quarter to half China Town's rally, while Eric Cepeda and Luiz Reyes knocked in baskets in the homestretch to preserve the win.

Chalan Kiya 68, Kagman 62

Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands took its third win in four games after slipping past Kagman Destroyers.

Dante Tabora tallied eight of his 13 points in the fourth period and four others made it to the scoreboard for Chalan Kiya to hand Kagman its sec-

ond loss in three games. James Kintz and Jason Bahillo also finished in double digits for Chalan Kiya, hitting 17 and 12 markers, respectively.

San Roque 58, Gualo Rai 56

San Roque Morales gained the solo lead in Pool B after outclassing Gualo Rai Blue Haus.

San Roque is still unbeaten in three games, thanks to its balance offense in the fourth quarter.

Seven different players produced at least one field goal for San Roque to foil Gualo Rai's repeated comeback bids. Noel David paced San Roque with 12 points, while White Capalad added 11.

RBC

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total of 59 teams spread out among nine divisions.

This year marks RBC's third appearance in the off-island competition and the event has grown bigger and bigger every year. This year, Guam's high school teams are also getting involved, albeit from various independent basketball clubs.

The RBC squads are the only off-island participants, but hopefully more Saipan teams will join in next year.

The teams were supposed to fly out last Friday, but were unable to make it due to Fly Guam's flight suspensions.

Unfortunately, the tournament started back on Thursday, Nov. 17, and the RBC teams have each missed three games already, but they will still get a chance to compete as tournament organizers have pushed back their game schedules as much as possible in an effort to accommodate the club.

RBC's U12 team is entered in the Turkey Dash division and will be coached by Elias Ranagamar. The team also has a smattering of U10 players.

Its U14A team is entered in the Turkey Run competitive division, while the U14B squad is entered in Turkey Run's coed recreation class.

The combined U16 and U18 team, coached by RBC's Ham Hambros, is entered in the Turkey Fly and Shoot coed recreation division.

The U18A team, coached by RBC's Fred Litulumar, is entered in the Turkey Shoot division and its U25 group is competing in the Turkey Blast competitive class.

"We want to thank our new coaches Elias Rangamar and John Dela Cruz as well as my veteran players and coaches Ham Hambros and Fred Litulumar. Mr. Dela Cruz has been working with our youth U10 team and although he can't make the trip with us, we appreciate his dedication and I am confident that Mr. Rangamar will do a good job with the boys. All

of our coaches do a great job day in and day out and each plays a big role in developing our players," said RBC head coach Joe Diaz, who coaches the U14 through U25 teams, in an interview yesterday at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Diaz added, "We also want to thank all of the parents for helping make this trip possible. In my opinion, honorable fundraising comes through hard work, not just handouts, and I appreciate that the RBC parents support this belief. We are always trying to come up with creative fundraising ideas and the parents play a big role in making them happen."

Diaz also acknowledged sponsors Bridge Capital and Jerry Tan and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for helping cover entrance fees, IT&E for helping provide accommodations, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services, Joseph Santos, and the St. Michaels' Medical Response Team, Hertz Rent-A-Car, Alamo National Rent-A-Car, McDonalds, Micronesians Brokers Inc., Docomo Pacific, Pacific Amusements, Marianas Public Land Trustees, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and National Office Supply.

"I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and send a special thanks to my wife Verna Babauta because without her on my side I'd just go crazy...and even though I know he doesn't want me to mention him, I want to thank Rep. Edmund Villagomez for everything he has done for so many youths in the community, not just the RBC," said Diaz.

Diaz also sent praise to Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogunoro and her staff at the Commonwealth Development Community Center in Garapan, which offers after-school programs daily Monday through Friday from 4pm to 6pm.

The group is expected to return early Monday morning.

Those interested can visit www.guambasketball.com to follow the tournament results.

MIEKO

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keep up with them," Carey said.

One of the young runners who blew away competitors in the U18 division and even the veterans of the island's footrace was John Auther, who came in ahead of Carey, placing fourth overall with a time of 42:10. The 11-year-old runner topped the boys U12 division, beating nine others in his age group.

Completing the Top 3 in the boys U12 were Logan Mister (48:15) and Allen Stafford (56:28). In the girls division, Joshaly Flores won with a time

of 1:25:48.

Stuart Smith, who came in second overall with a time of 40:30 ruled the men's 50-and-above division. Joining him in the Top 3 were Jeff Race (43:36) and Doug Hartig (48:23). In the women's division, Juanita Fajardo came in at first place with a time of 1:10:04, followed by Lyn Tenorio (1:25:54) and Priscilla Tenorio (1:25:55).

Ronald Villafria placed third overall, but his 41:57 was good enough for first place in the open division, besting the 47:44 of Matthew Mancao and 55:01 of Jude Loste. Villafria led the race going up to Capital Hill before Ji passed him on the right

turn to Mt. Tapochao road.

Noriko Jim was only a few meters away from Villafria and ended up first in the women's open division and ninth overall with a time of 44:34.

Tom Linden came in fourth overall and topped the men's 40 to 49 age group after clocking in at 42:11. Tyce Mister (46:12) and Tamio Nishikido (47:45) rounded out the Top 3. In the women's division, Kim Young was ahead with her 53:49. She was the only competitor in her age group to complete the race under the one-hour mark, as runner-up Irma Halaby timed in at 1:08:55, and Carol Auther posted 1:10:02.

In the women's 30 to 39 age

group, Tina Goodwin recorded 1:05:36 to place first. Maggie Vicente (1:07:29) and Teresa Kim Tenorio (1:11:37). Brandon Wiley reigned supreme in the men's 30 to 39 category with his 45:39. Mahesh Balakrishna (51:17) and Joe Villacrusis (55:51) completed the Top 3.

In the boys 13 to 17 age group, Michael Mancao (44:10), Angelo Jones (46:56), and Djay-march Ong (51:22) made up the Top 3. Gabrielle Race (59:14) topped the girls division.

Yesterday's race drew 114 runners and only a few did not finish, including 2009 winner Jack Kabiriel, who had another asthma attack.

THE CRANK

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Lockhart, who is a renowned nutrition consultant that cross-trained with former Olympian Rhadi Ferguson.

He is also working with his strength and conditioning coach D'Angelo Kinard of Advanced Sports Performance.

Camacho returned from Saipan tipping the scales at 188 lbs, and somehow managed to cut all the way down to 155 lb in just six weeks.

"All I can say that Mr. Lock-

hart and Mr. Kinard really know their stuff. I can't give away their secrets, but I admit I was impressed that I pulled it off in time for my bout and that we did it in a healthy manner," assured Camacho.

According to Sherdog.com, Camacho holds a win-loss record of 10-2. He notched a second round knockout victory in an Ultimate Warrior Challenge bout earlier this year.

Camacho also shared that he will be visiting Saipan next week and that he is starting a toy drive for charity this holiday season.

Visit freecrankshirt.com to see how you can win a pair of free limited edition Frank "The Crank" T-shirts.

The T-shirts are also on sale and \$5 of every shirt purchased will be donated toward Camacho's toy drive that will be presented to kids that may otherwise not receive a gift this holiday season.

Winners will be selected weekly until the promotion ends on Dec. 22, 2011.

"I want to wish everyone in the CNMI a happy and warm Thanksgiving. Whether you are laying a turkey on the table or sip-

ping on syrup with your *bunelos*, give thanks," stated Camacho.

He added, "Be on the look out for my new T-shirt. I started the toy drive as a way to give back to community (for Karidat) and I want to remind everyone that the proceeds raised go toward a worthy cause. It's like killing two birds with one stone—the shirts make great gifts and by purchasing one you also get to donate to charity," he said.

Fans can also follow Camacho on his website <http://crankeffect.com> or on Facebook at www.crankfans.com.

TAN HOLDINGS

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minute and only one minute later, Gurung also scored. Chetri then hit back-to-back goals in a span of one minute (16th and 17th minute) to give Matansa a 4-0 halftime edge.

Then with only four minutes gone by in the second half, Arkoh lit up the scoreboard, while Stravino made his first and only goal in the 63rd minute. Ahead

by 6-0, Matansa was still merciless as it drained three more goals in the last 20 minutes of the match with Gurung scoring in the 70th minute, Arkoh in the 77th, and Ruszala in the 90th.

Last Sunday's game was Matansa's second for the week, as it also dueled Korean Football Association on Saipan on Nov. 17 and was engaged in a scoreless draw.

In the other game at the Oleai pitch last Sunday, Tan Holdings FC also barged into the win col-

umn after beating Shirley's FC in Group A, 6-1.

Jun Jie Cui led Tan Holdings with his three goals, while Chi Ming Tang, Ruselle Zapanta, and Delbert Greenman contributed one each. Tan Holdings drilled all its goals in the second half with Tang scoring in the 54th minute and then two minutes later, Zapanta also found the back of the net. Tan Holdings was in the rhythm in the second half, as Cui recorded back-to-back goals (65th and

76th minute), Greenman added one (78th), and Cui scored anew five minutes before the game ended.

Shirley's FC avoided being shutout when Kenneth Domingo gave his team its lone goal in the final minute of the second half.

Before last week's four games at the Oleai pitch, matches in the FA Cup was moved at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, as the facility in Susupe was unplayable due to the series of rains last month.

28th Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A male runner races up the rough road to Mt. Tapochao of yesterday's 28th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run.



John Auther, left, keeps pace with Tom Linden.



Ken Pierson joins the race with his family.



Eventual First Placer Keum Bae Ji nears the finish line.



Two runners sprint to the finish line.



Mieko Carey looks at the people waiting for her at the finish line.



Stuart Smith runs toward the finish line.



Rafael Jones, right, leads Joe Villacrusis a few meters away from the finish line.



Chang Wang Jang in his trademark barefoot running.



Runners make their final push toward the finish line on top of Mt. Tapochao.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Finishers of yesterday's 28th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run pose for a group photo.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko wins in Turkey Trot return

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey had a successful return in the Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run, while Keum Bae Ji scored a repeat in yesterday's 4.2-mile race.



'The Crank' gearing up for 2012



Frank Camacho poses in his Gi shortly after being awarded his Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Purple belt in the Lloyd Irvin MMA Gym in Camp Springs, Maryland.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho has been busy training hard for Team Lloyd Irvin mixed martial arts in Camp Springs, Maryland in preparation for several MMA and submission/grappling events in 2012.

He is also hitting the mat helping to train some of his teammates for their upcoming Ultimate Fighter Championship and Strike Force bouts.

Camacho works daily with Strike Force's Ron Stallings,

UFC lightweight contender Phil "Mr. Wonderful" Davis, UFC Bantamweight champion Dominick Cruz, as well as UFC fighters Brandon Vera, Mike "The Hulk" Easton, and Stephen Bass.

He is also helping train a stout group of world class Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners as they prepare for the 2012 BJJ World Championships in Long Beach, California, slated for some time in June.

The BJJ artists include black belts J.T. "Spiderman" Torres, Jimmy "JAH" Harbison, Andris Brunovskis, Keenan Cornelius, Sijara Eubanks, and D.J. "The Kimura Kid" Jackson.

"I am cranking it up to get myself ready to get back in the cage this 2012. I have been cutting weight to compete as a lightweight and I feel like I am in the best shape of my life. I may enter into some submission and grappling events, but my main focus is getting back on the fight scene," stated Camacho in an email to *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

Camacho admitted that he might have indulged in too much Chamorro food during his recent visit, but upon his return to the mainland, he has been working with Marine Corps veteran George

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Ji completed the race from Lower Base to Mt. Tapochao in 39 minutes and 44 seconds to defend the men's title, while Carey submitted 42:36 to take the women's crown and finished sixth overall. Ji missed his 2010

time (39:22) by only 22 seconds. Carey's time on the other hand was faster than the 42:55 of three-time champion Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who skipped this year's race, as she is preparing for tougher event later this month.

"I missed the Turkey Trot for three years, so it was nice to be back and have a great race with a lot of people. There are many great youth runners this morning and I felt I have to train hard to

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Tan Holdings, Matansa prevail in Men's FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Action in the 2011 N M I F A Men's FA Cup returned at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last week with Matansa FC and Tan Holdings FC cruising to separate wins.

In the first game last Sunday, Matansa shut out MP United B, 9-0, to break into the win column in Group B.

Dhiraj Chetri had a hat-trick for Matansa, while T.J. Gurung and Gabriel Arkoh added two goals each. Brad Ruszala and Vince Stravino chipped in one goal apiece in Matansa's demolition of MP United B.

Chetri got Matansa's offense going with his goal in the ninth

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A Tan Holdings FC striker kicks the ball during their Week 2 game in the Men's FA Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

RBC fields 6 teams in Guam Thanksgiving Hoop Fest

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club sent off six of its teams to Guam yesterday where they will take part in the 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest set at the Tamuning Gymnasium.

RBC's convoy totals 54 people, which make up its U12, U14A, U14B, U16-18 coed, U18A, and U25 squads.

The tournament features a

See RBC on Page 30



Rollers Basketball Club head coach Joe Diaz, left, and his players line up for the check-in counter of Fly Guam late Thursday night at the Saipan International Airport. RBC will be competing in a Thanksgiving caging in Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO